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Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

www.modelmilitary.com

Issue 36 - April 2009

IT'S A DING-DONG SHERMAN!

Dragon's 1:72 Sherman Mk.III

GOING TO CONFESSION

A 'tranquil' scene based around Monroe Perdu's church front diorama base

ALFRESCO BREAKFAST

Miniart's ZIS-2 57mm anti-tank gun and crew set

Super-detailing Tamiya's 1:48 Panzer IV Ausf. J

THORMA IN A TEA CUP

PREVIEWS: EL ALAMEIN SHERMAN ■ ITALERI STAGHOUND AA ■ AND MORE...

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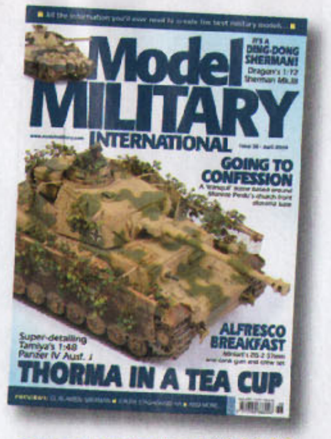

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DIORAMAS PLUS

Last month Dioramas Plus announced their first release of a 'Brick Ruins' plaster-cast building in 1:35, well they are now pleased to announce their next release, which is titled "Apartment Ruins" (DP7). Again this set comes complete with nicely detailed hydrocal castings, rubble, bricks and full colour instructions with both painting and weathering tips. For more details visit: *www.dioramasplus.com*
or email: *downtowndeco@montana.com*

MODEL RAIL
The Weathering Expert
Learn how to make your models more realistic - the expert way!
LOCOMOTIVES
BUILDINGS
TRACKS
EASY TECHNIQUES DEMONSTRATED AND EXPLAINED

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

At first glance this latest DVD on weathering model railways may not seem to have much relevance to armour modelling, but you would be very much mistaken, most of, if not all of the popular weathering techniques were first developed by railway modellers and have been adapted over the years by us armour modellers. George Dent – Writer for Model Rail, expertly guides the viewer through this 90 minute DVD and offers a comprehensive repertoire involving lots of techniques to include –

- **Light weathering with Tamiya pigments**
- **Distressed EWS livery on a class 37**
- **Heavy weathering with windscreen wiper marks**
- **Track weathering with an airbrush**
- **Scenic rust and Tensocrom glazes on buildings**
- **The battered and rusted look of a 16 ton mineral wagon**
- **Realistic cleaned, oily sheen on an A4**
- **Real coal and ash grease and grime on a neglected 8F**

**Definitely one to look past the title as this DVD contains a wealth of useful tips and techniques using lots of products we are familiar with.
Available from: *www.airbrushes.com***

WHITE METAL 1:35 GIRLIES

Not brand new but new to MMI are these 'interesting' female figures from Aurora Models. Some of which are more fantasy than factual, but others would be perfect for adding that feminine touch to a diorama. All are well sculpted and are cast in white metal and are certainly worth checking out. Thanks must go to Regular contributor John Wilkes who has had to suffer hours in front of the computer to find these goodies. For the whole range please go to: *http://aurora-model.jp/e-military.html*

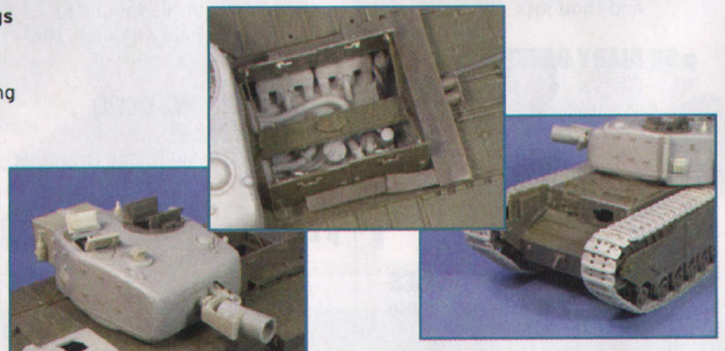
CHURCHILL UPGRADES

Not ones to be left behind, Resicast have just announced their first updates and conversions for the long awaited AFV Club Churchill.
And thanks to this kit we are going to see some great conversions and detailing sets being released in the future and so here are the latest from Resicast.

35.1202 AVRE Mk IV turret & fittings
New Churchill turret (one piece with separate floor)
Includes AVRE fittings and front sliding hatch in open or closed position.
Also includes basic interior

35.2308 Churchill engine
Drop in engine which is an all new casting

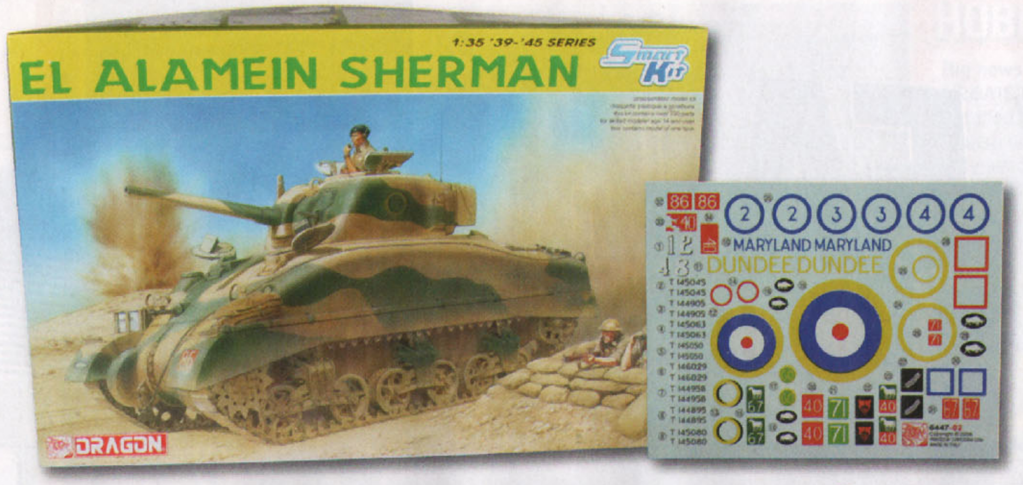
35.2311 Early pattern tracks
'Link and length' early pattern tracks



LIFECOLOR
ACRYLIC HOBBY COLORS
BASIC COLOR SET
TENSOCROM
DOUBLE TENSOCROM SET Art DCS 03
GERMAN WWII MILITARY VEHICLES
LIFECOLOR
CAMOUFLAGE SET
DOUBLE CAMOUFLAGE SET art DCS 01

LIFECOLOR DOUBLE BOX SETS

**Lifecolor has recently released their latest 12 colour box set, which has been made up by combining two of the previously available six bottle sets. The first is a combination of the two sets of German WWII military vehicle colours. The second is the popular Tensocrom set (combining Tensocrom 1&2) and the third consists of Basic Matt Colours (the colours in this set were previously only available to buy as single colours).
For more info and the whole range of Lifecolor products please go to *www.airbrushes.com***



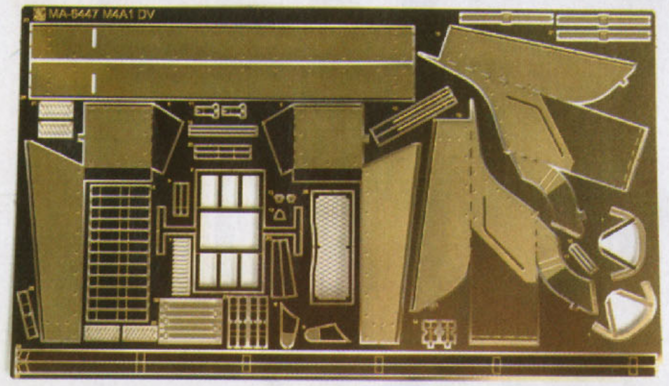
JEWEL IN THE DESERT

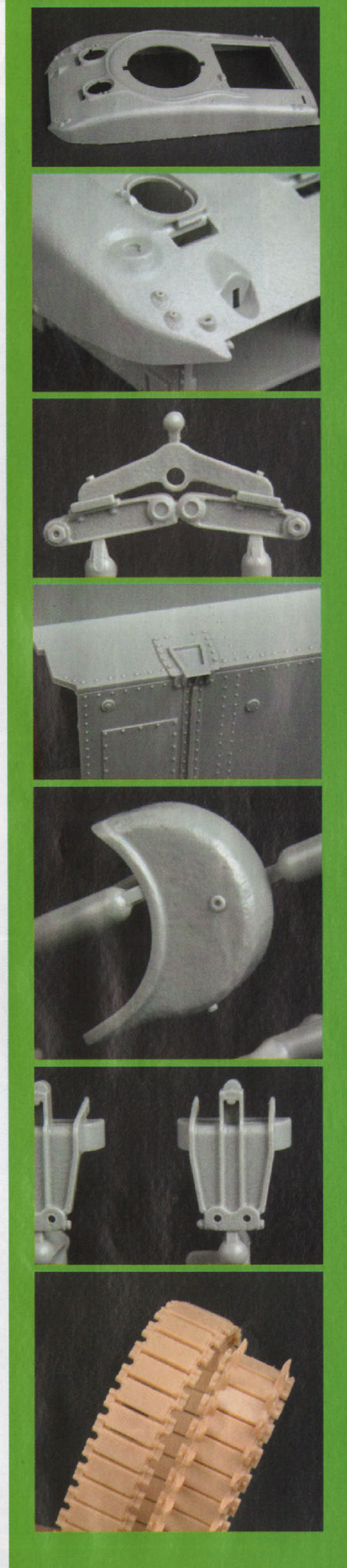
Andrew Willis checks out Dragon's latest version of the Sherman, which is also the earliest to see combat.

I have to say straightaway that this is an absolute gem of a kit. All the sprues, bar one are brand new or very recent; the one old sprue (A) is in almost every Dragon Sherman and is only in this kit to provide 'on vehicle' tools and fuel filler caps. The older sprue (B) provides the 75mm gun and turret with a small add on section, which provides the optional side extensions for the early mantlet. The new sprues are designated (C) with a new 75mm gun barrel with the correct early taper, rear air-filter boxes for the rear plate. One thing of note on this sprue is a second rear plate with open hatches and the corresponding separate hatches all marked on the instructions as 'not for use'. This suggests a model to follow with an engine included and which may even be in the already announced U.S. variant of this kit. There are two sprue (Ds) which provide the early M3 Lee/Grant style suspension and what a good job Dragon have done of it, so good they have already announced its release in their sister Cyber-Hobby range. Sprue (E) just has the British blanket box for the turret rear and can be dropped into any future releases of British tanks if Dragon so desire, we can all live in hope. Sprue (F) provides rear engine-deck hatches and three different styles of engine ventilator covers. Sprue (G) has the Driver's and Co-driver's top hatches which are of the correct early type without springs. Sprue (H) contains the three-piece transmission cover, which has a wonderful cast texture and subtle cast numbers; even the oil drain plugs are where they should be! Please note that the parts for the bolted mounting strips (H4 & 5) are actually four separate pieces so do not remove the line moulded down the centre; it is designed to be there. The lower hull is provided in one piece and is of the early bolted type as it should be. The upper hull is on a sprue also marked 'G' and also has a part numbered G18, which is a template for folding the headlight brush guards, so take care when reading the instructions. The upper hull has a lovely cast texture and has the strips of bolts on the bottom lips as well as the cut out at the front for the direct vision slits. There is also another sprue C in the box but this time it is a clear sprue and provides the headlights and periscopes, and while on the subject of lights it should be noted that the rear lights have been correctly moulded i.e. the mounting bar comes out of the back of the lights and is not a stub from underneath, I think this is a first for any Sherman kit? The kit comes with a large photo etched fret with the usual engine deck meshes as well as a set of British style sand shields and the side rails for the truck disguise. There is also a length of metal cable to make the tow cable. The tracks are moulded in Dragon DS vinyl, which is glue-able and provides the early T41 style, which had thinner rubber blocks than the later T51 track. Lastly is the decal sheet, and what a colourful sheet this is, providing markings for nine tanks during the El Alamein battles. The modeller is going to be spoilt for choice when it comes to painting and marking this kit and I must say it would look good with an RAF roundel on the top of either the turret or engine deck as there are two different sizes on the decal sheet. If you decide to model a tank from the 9th Lancers then please use the decal guide and not the box top when applying the squadron circle symbol, it should be on a sand base not the camouflage colour base.

The first thing that struck me when picking up this kit was how light it felt for a Dragon kit and upon opening the box how small and thin the instruction sheet was, but you can rest assured as this is definitely a case of quality over quantity and will hopefully lead to later versions without direct-vision ports and with welded lower hulls.

This model deserves to sell well as it is a long overdue subject and will result in a colourful version of the first Shermans to see battle, and of course a superb job done by Dragon. ■

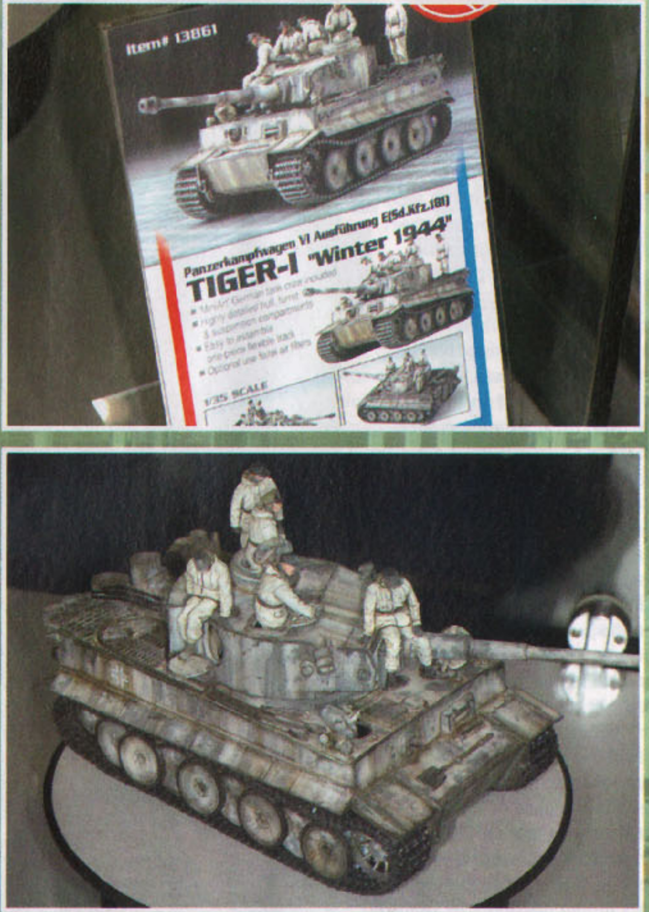




TOY FAIR 2009

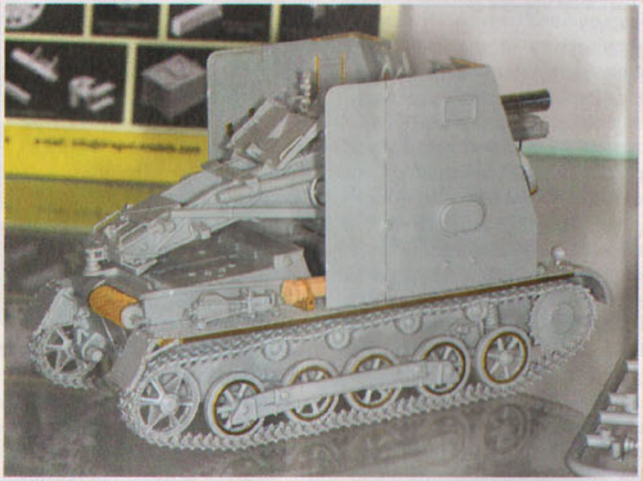
The Editor should have been bringing this report in person, but the elements had other intentions!

Thanks to some freakish weather conditions I was unable to attend this year's Nuremberg Toy Fair, but thankfully our Group Editor, Marcus Nicholls did manage to battle his way through the snow and get on the airport safely. Here is selection of what we can expect from the manufacturers over the coming months and I must say that by checking the lists published and the new products on display, it seems that new releases look decidedly down on what was announced this time last year. This really must be a sign of the economic times we are in at present if even the big boys have to keep a tight rein on their purse strings. ■



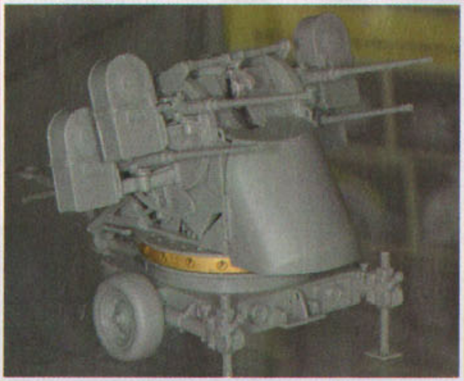
ACADEMY

Academy were displaying a limited edition 1:35 Tiger I 'Winter 1944' which includes a set of five MiniArt crew figures wearing two-piece reversible winter uniforms (Kit No. 13861).

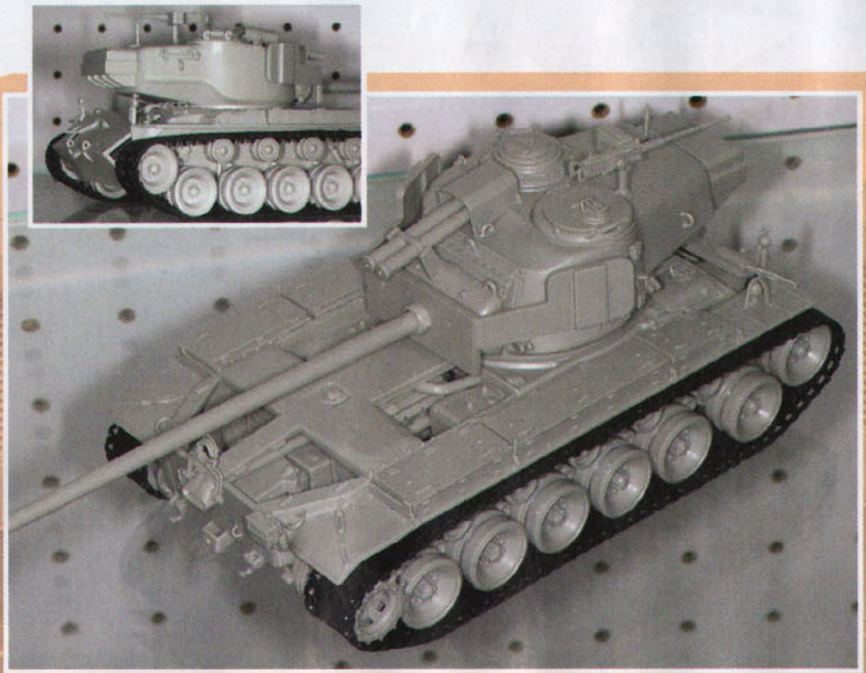


DRAGON

Dragon's Pz.Kpfw. I Ausf.B 15cm s.IG.33 looked superb featuring their state of the art tooling, highlights include etched brass detail parts, turned aluminium gun barrel, DS styrene wicker ammunition containers and Magic-Tracks (Kit No. 6259).

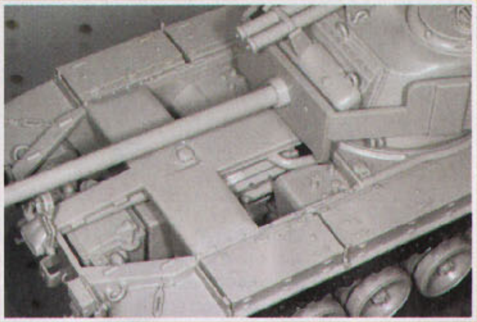


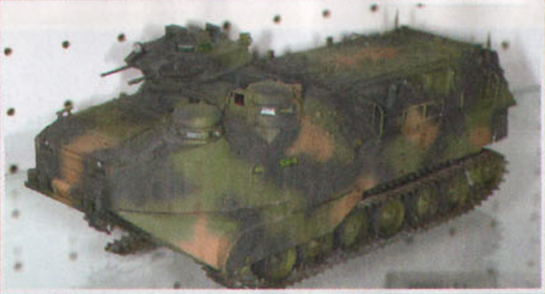
An interesting release is this U.S. Quad Gun Trailer M55 anti-aircraft weapon. This is a clever spin off from Dragon's all new M16 halftrack kit.



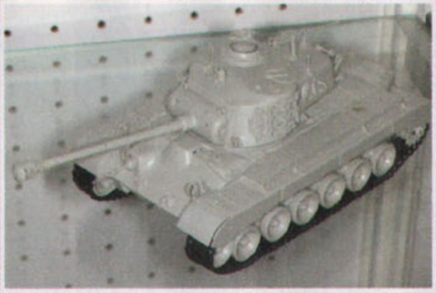
HOBBYBOSS

Big news from HobbyBoss is their all-new 1:35 M26A1E2 'Super Pershing' complete with a detailed engine, turret counterweight for the monstrous 90mm gun. My only concern is that it only seems to have a single layer of bow armour, whereas the real vehicle was fitted with a double layer of appliqué armour.





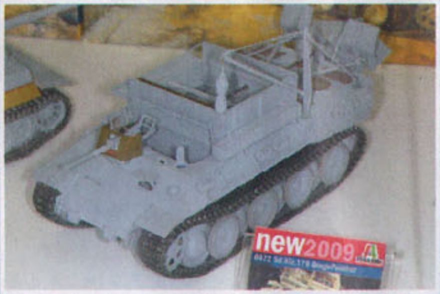
HobbyBoss had one of their new AAVP-7A1 Assault Amphibious Vehicles on display, which features the EAAK armour mounting points (Kit No. 82413). Overall detail looks very good and should prove a worthy successor to the ageing Tamiya kit. HobbyBoss are also releasing an early LTVP-7 and the upgraded AAV, which features the Bradley style suspension and the EAAK appliqué armour!

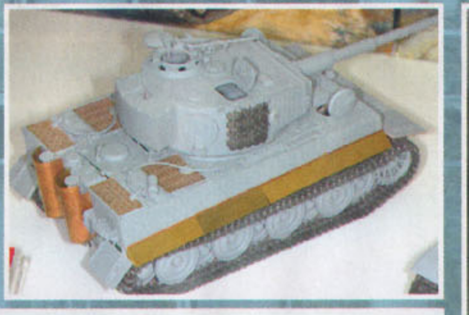


As well as the awesome looking 'Super Pershing' we are also treated to a regular M26 (T26E3) from HobbyBoss, and judging by the accompanying photo looks to be a serious contender to the now hard to find Dragon kits.

HOBBY BOSS
Hotchkiss H39 tracks

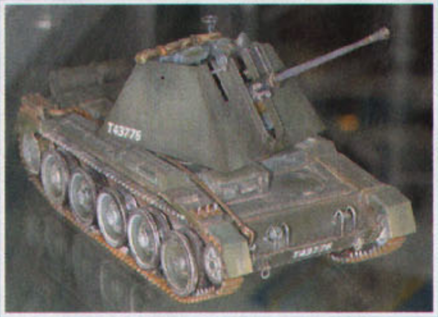
HobbyBoss also announced a range of individual injection plastic tracks sets, which look to be aimed as direct competition to the likes of Model Kasten!



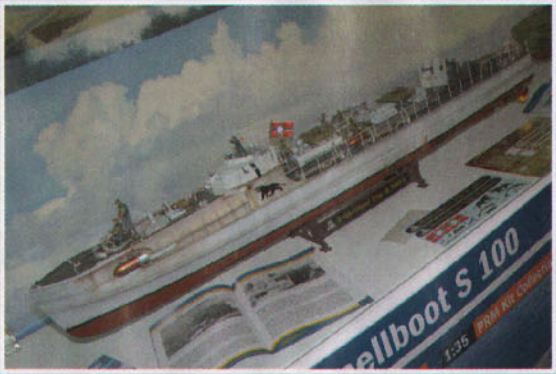


ITALERI

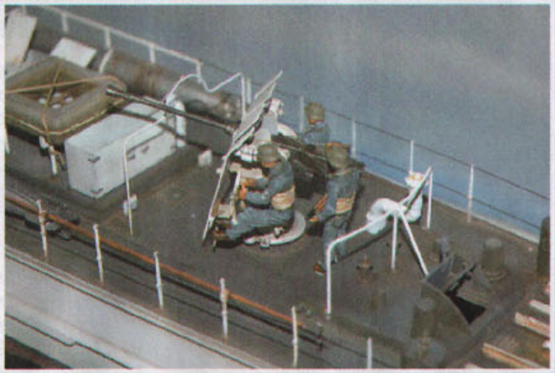
Both the Bergepanther and Tiger I (late) are announced as new kits for 2009 and both sport etched detail sets. The Tiger comes with side skirts, engine-deck screens and exhaust guards, while the Bergepanther features engine deck screens and gunshield and sight for the bow mounted 20mm cannon.



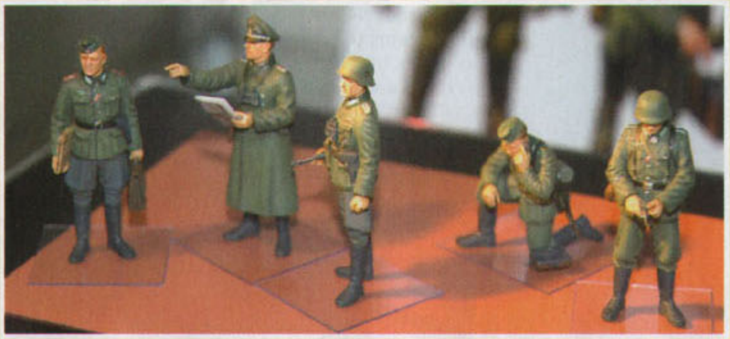
Italeri had their new Crusader III AA Mk. Kit (No. 6465S) on display, which should prove a hit with fans of WWII British armour.



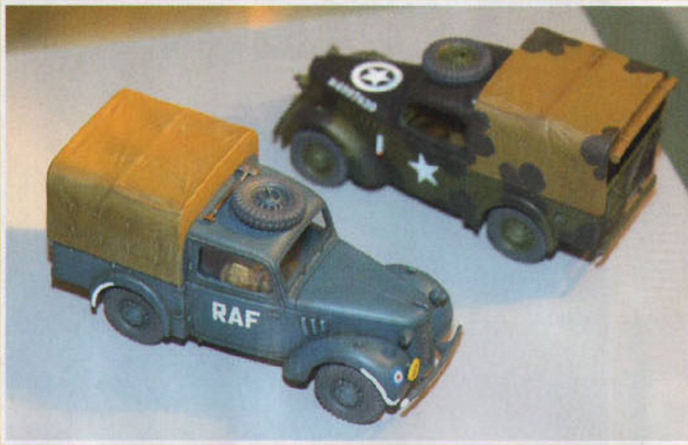
It was good to see the impressive S-100 took centre stage on the Italeri stand. The display model showed off the new crew figure set, which should be on sale any day now.



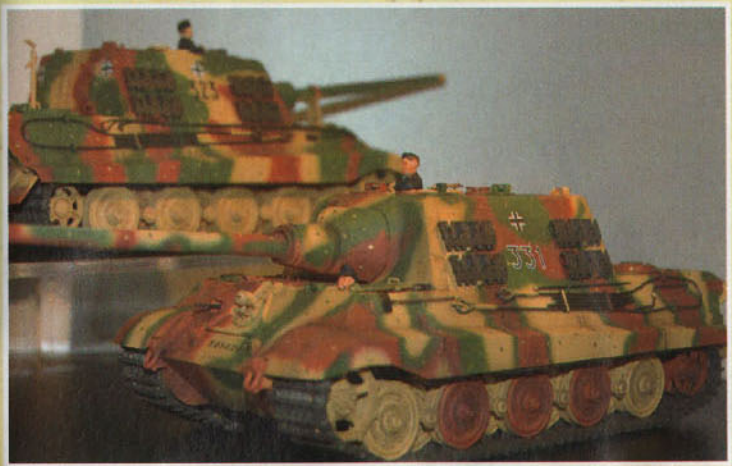
TAMIYA



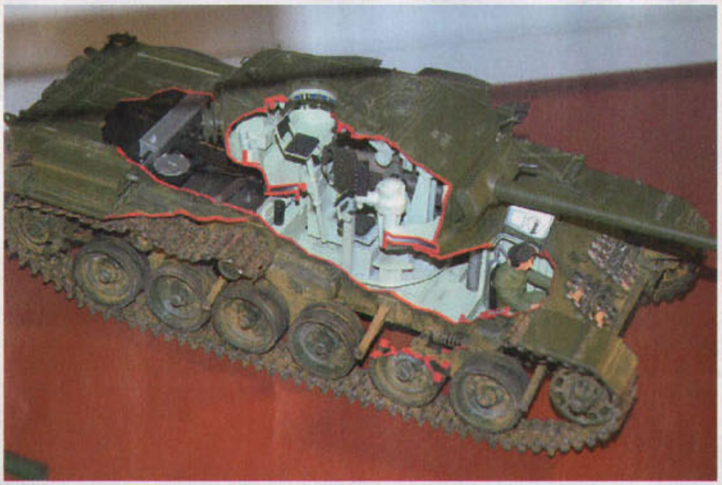
While Tamiya didn't have too much genuinely new stuff to announce, they did however have a couple of nice figure sets and some of their older kits, which have received some re-tooling and new decals. A new 1:35 German Field Commander set (35298) looked pretty good and will be the perfect accompaniment for some of the early war German vehicles Tamiya have been releasing of late.



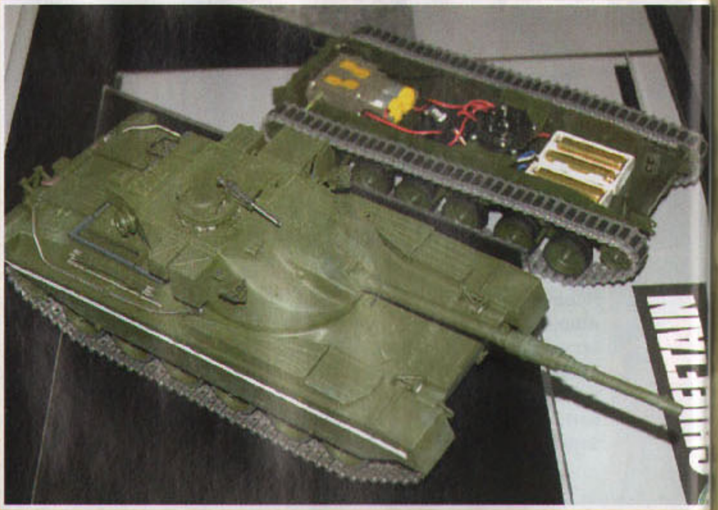
Tamiya's new 1:48 Austin Tilly is a lovely little kit and is the perfect crossover model, offering something for the 1:48 armour and aircraft modeller.



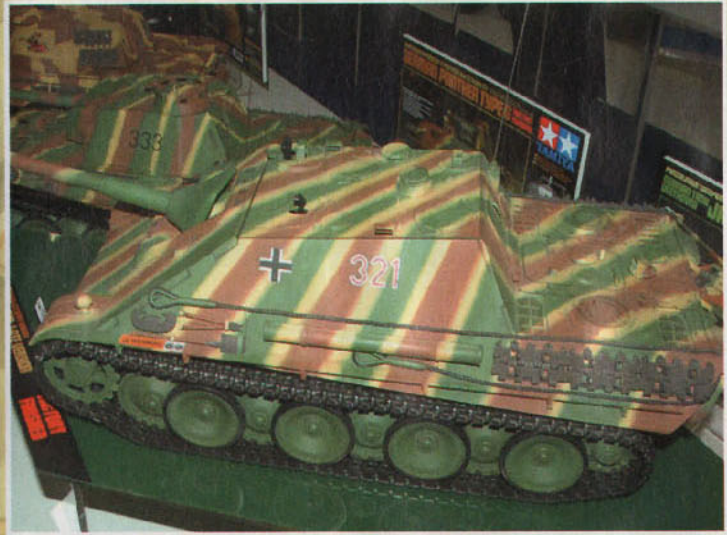
Tamiya's all new Jagdtiger looked very impressive built up and painted. In next month's issue, look for Brett Greens full build review of this monster.



A golden oldie makes a welcome return. Tamiya's 1:25 Centurion was arguably the best of their 1:25 scale range. With a full interior and engine compartment this can make for a stunning model with a little TLC.

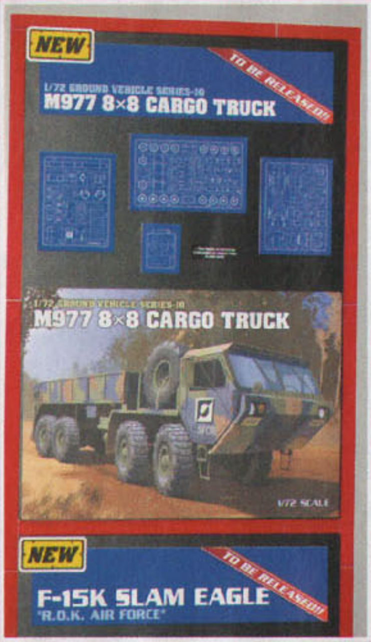


Tamiya have always been the leader in R/C tanks and joining their prestigious line-up will be the 1:25 Chieftain Main Battle Tank.

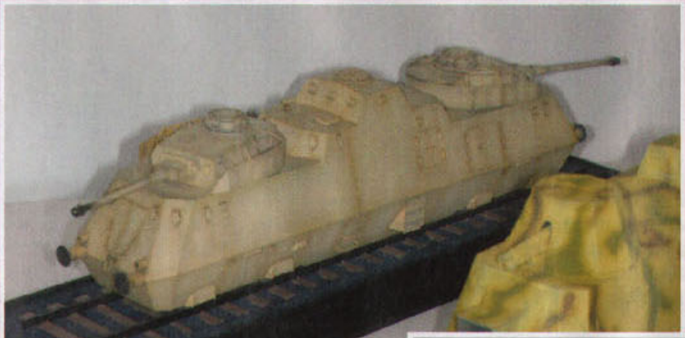


On display was this impressive line-up of Tamiya's 1:16 of radio-controlled tanks.

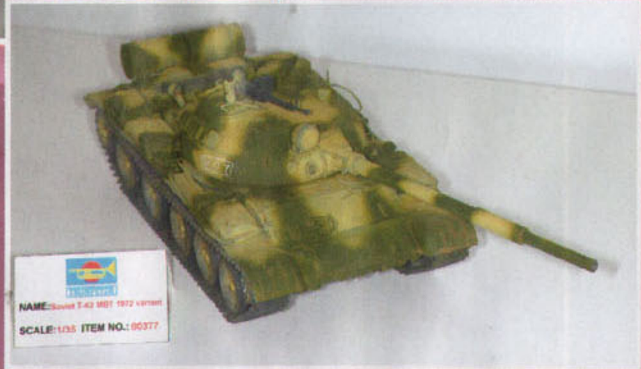
TRUMPETER



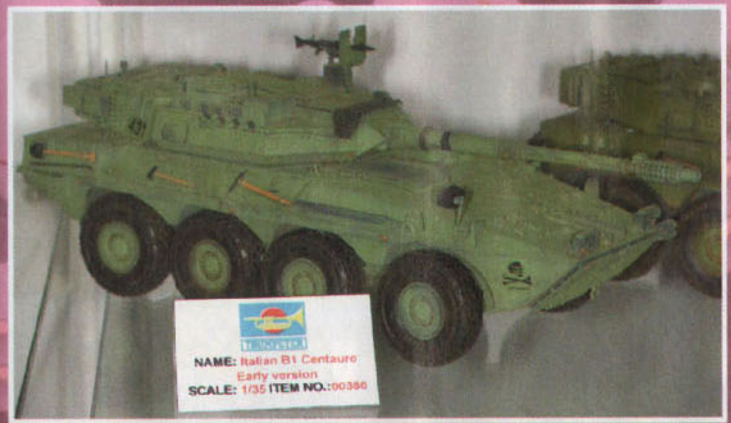
A welcome addition to Trumpeter's expanding range of 1:72 military vehicles is this M977 HEMTT 8x8 cargo truck.



Trumpeter were also displaying a selection of Armoured Train including this one mounting two Panzer IV turrets.



Trumpeter's 1:35 T-62 has been a long time coming, and one which will surely be well received and will no doubt spawn a wealth of conversions and detail sets once it finally hits the shelves.



Although the display models of the B1 Centauro Heavy Armoured Cars weren't painted very well, it was still possible to see the level of detail incorporated into the tooling.

NEW
01520 Flakpanzer IV

Trumpeter had this set of drawings on display of the 1:35 Flakpanzer IV Ostwind. Unfortunately the details are rather vague with the only information being a release date of September/October 2009.

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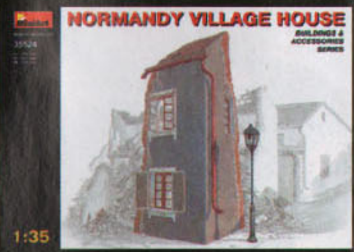
MiniArt

DINGO Mk.III BRITISH SCOUT CAR w/CREW
35077
1:35
MIN35077
Dingo Mk III British Armored Car with Crew

EAST EUROPEAN VILLAGE HOUSE
1:72
MIN72016
1:72 East-European Village House


NORMANDY VILLAGE HOUSE
1:35
MIN35524
1:35 Normandy Village House

RUINED HOUSE
1:35
MIN35526
1:35 Ruined House

NORMANDY CROSS-ROADS DIORAMA
1:35
MIN36019
1:35 Normandy Cross-Roads Diorama

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1:35 AAVP-7A1 RAM/RS

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HH-60H Rescue hawk (Late Version)
HBB87233
1:72 HH-60H Rescue hawk (Late Version)

HH-60J Jayhawk
HBB87235
1:72 HH-60J Jayhawk

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1:72 Royal Navy Westland Lynx HAS.3

HBB87239
1:72 German Navy (Bundesmarine) Westland Lynx MK.88

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MIG00400	Grey Filter for Dark Yellow
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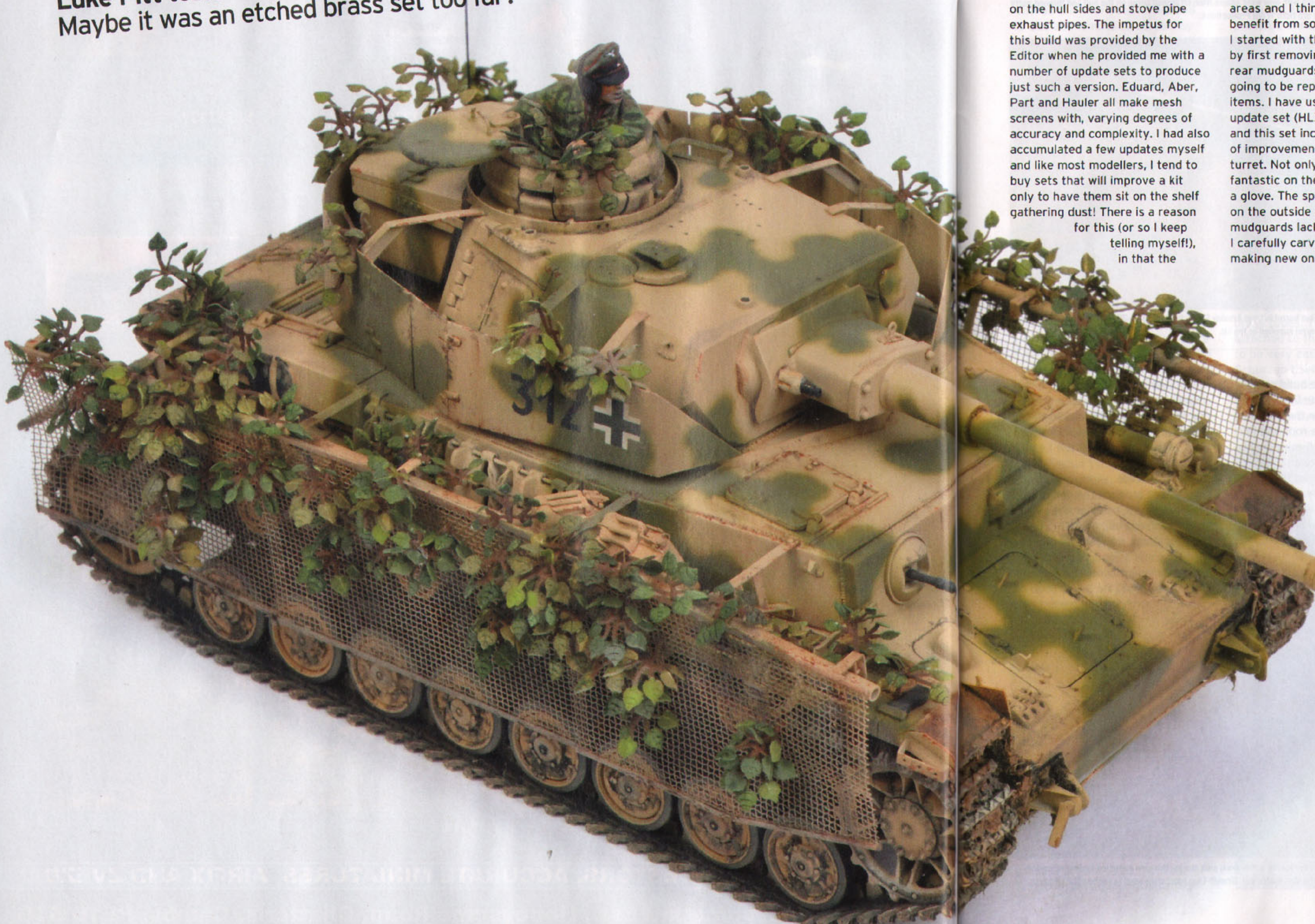
THORMA IN A TEA CUP

Luke Pitt tests his patience while detailing Tamiya's 1:48 Panzer IV Ausf. J. Maybe it was an etched brass set too far?



As Tamiya's 1:48 Panzer IV has been out for quite a while, so won't go over old ground and talk about the basic construction, suffice to say all of Tamiya's 1:48 range of armour are straightforward and simple to assemble thanks to their excellent instructions and superb engineering. My intention is to comment on a number of improvements and accessories I have added to it and describe my building and painting style. I decided from the outset that I wanted to depict a late Panzer IV J with the wire mesh Schurzen on the hull sides and stove pipe exhaust pipes. The impetus for this build was provided by the Editor when he provided me with a number of update sets to produce just such a version. Eduard, Aber, Part and Hauler all make mesh screens with, varying degrees of accuracy and complexity. I had also accumulated a few updates myself and like most modellers, I tend to buy sets that will improve a kit only to have them sit on the shelf gathering dust! There is a reason for this (or so I keep telling myself!), in that the accessories may not be available when you get time to build the kit. But one has to wonder how much is enough! Will all these things make a better model? I guess it's up to the individual to decide if this accessory obsession many of us seem to have is worth it? My intention was to use as many of these accumulated updates as I could, simply to make myself feel less guilty and justify why I keep buying them!

ASSEMBLY

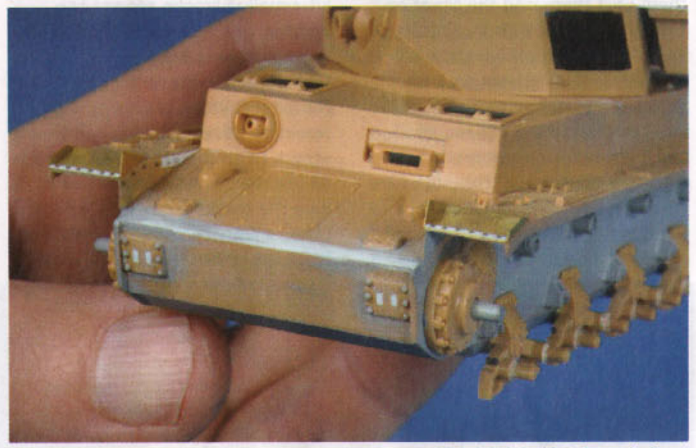
The Tamiya kit is basically a sound and dimensionally accurate model but has been simplified in a few areas and I think will definitely benefit from some extra detailing. I started with the upper hull by first removing the front and rear mudguards, as these were going to be replaced with etch items. I have used the Hauler update set (HLX48057) here and this set includes a number of improvements for the hull and turret. Not only does this set look fantastic on the fret, it fits like a glove. The springs mounted on the outside edges of the rear mudguards lack detail on the kit, so I carefully carved these off before making new ones from very thin fuse wire which I coiled around some thin brass rod, these were then fixed in place with superglue. The front mud flaps exhibit a number of faults, with the most noticeable being the rolled edge. I took the easy way out on this build and positioned them in the 'folded up' position with new hinge pins being fashioned from more fuse wire. One of the more noticeable flaws is the join between the upper and lower on the bow where you can see a stepped edge between the two, which when compared to photos of the real thing you will find no such step! I also had to correct this fault on my previous Tamiya Wirbelwind build article back in issue 28 by filling in with plastic card strip.

REAR HULL

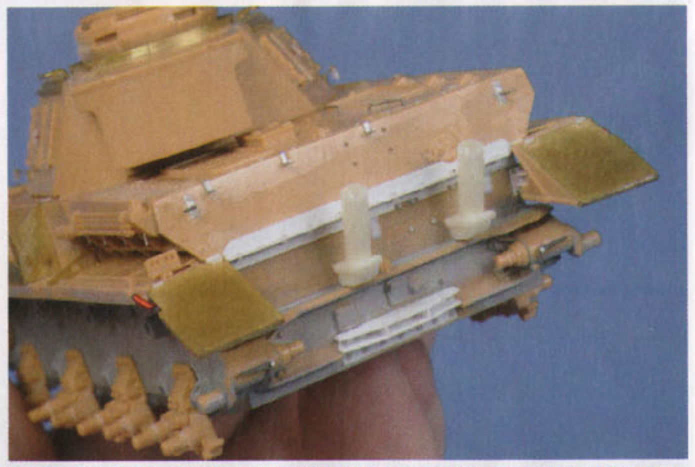
My attention then turned to the rear of the hull and while consulting my references again; I noted Tamiya had moulded the joining strip at the rear of the vehicle a little too heavily. I removed this strip entirely and then filled the gap for the muffler with plastic card before sanding smooth. (This had to be done, as I was going to mount the late pattern 'stove pipe' mufflers from Hauler). I replaced the bolted flange with 10 thou plastic card and added the various bolt heads. I also noted the towing bracket looked a little heavy, so I replaced this with a scratch built item made from 15 thou plastic card. The last part of the build process before the upper and lower hulls could be joined together was to 'blank off' the gap, the mudguards and lower hull using 20 thou plastic card. This was achieved by blended them into the lower part of the mudguard with the aid of putty and a sanding stick.

DETAILS

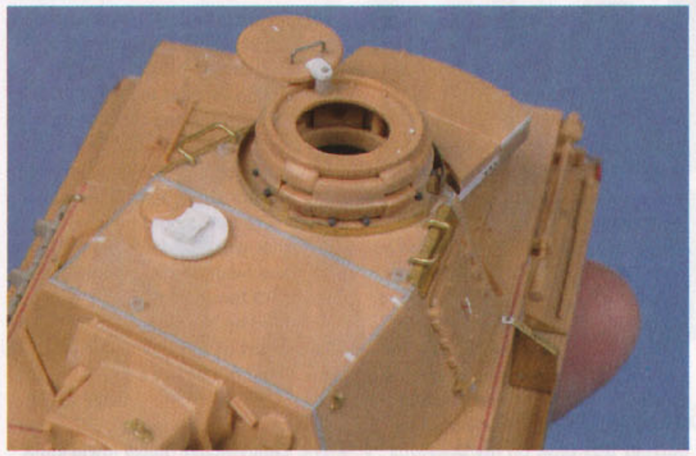
The Tamiya cast metal lower hull lacks many of the bolt heads that are evident on Panzer IVs so I turned to my trusty 'Waldron sub -miniature Punch and Die set' and produced the rivet and bolt heads for the lower hull. I attached these with super glue using the 'puddle' method by pouring a puddle of super glue on a suitable surface (like a disposable metal cake tray). I then picked up the rivet/bolt head with the 'pointy' end of an Excel blade and dipped it with the bolt attached and placed it onto the hull. Unlike liquid glue you have only one chance to get this right, so it took me a few attempts to ▶

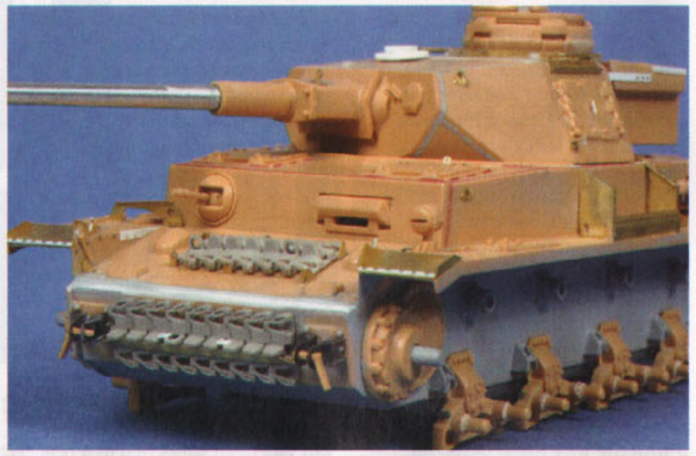


The Panzer IV Ausf. J suffers from the same fit problem as on the Wirbelwind kit, this is due to the fact they share the same hull parts. The step between the bow plate and glacis is filled with plastic card strip.



The author removed the original bolted flange, which joins the rear of the upper and lower hull sections. Note also the new spring retainers for the rear fenders.


Considering how small the Panzer IV turret is in 1:48 scale, it is impressive how much extra detailing has been added. The hardest part to add was the etched brass bullet splashguard around the base of the cupola. Note also the very late style single-piece commander's hatch, which doesn't hinge up to open, but rather lifts and swings to the side.


The finished front end complete with new weld seams from stretched sprue on the hull and thinned putty on the turret. The spare links are from WWII Productions.

The turned brass and aluminium barrel is from Armour Scale, item No. B48-009. This part offers a huge improvement on the plastic barrel supplied in the kit.

◀ get the effect I was after. I stopped at only doing the hull sides, as the very bottom of the hull would not be seen.

At this stage, the last details were added and these included stretched sprue weld beads in the top of the hull. Tamiya had incorrectly moulded these as recessed, so it is a simple case of filling these with a slightly larger diameter sprue and coating the sprue with liquid glue to soften them up. I then used the tip of an Excel blade in a 'stippling' motion down the length of the sprue to simulate the weld texture. I was very keen to pack as much detail as I could on to the hull, so all of the grab handles were replaced with new ones made from thin wire with the aid of Mission Models' Grab-handler. The small rivet heads on the front and rear of the hull were added using the very small rivets supplied in the Tasca 1:35 Sherman VVSS Bogie replacement set (35-008). I was very impressed with all the detailing Phil Stutscinskas had done to his Euro Militaire winning Panzer IV 'Konrad III' (see Model Military International issue 10 Feb 07) so I set about reproducing as much of this detail in 1:48 with a bit of extra help from the drawings in the excellent Achtung Panzer No. 3 book.

RUNNING GEAR

The next step of the build process was to work on the running gear. I had wanted to use the WWII Productions replacement tracks, but at this stage of the build they were out of production (thankfully they are now in production again) so I used the Tamiya items. The kit-supplied tracks are not too bad but lack a certain finesse compared to the WWII Productions resin items. I was very mindful that the final painting of this model would be tricky, so I decided to attach (with the aid of Blu-Tack) all the road wheels to the hull and glue the tracks together. Once dry, I then simply removed the entire track assembly; leaving only the tracks and upper return rollers as a completed unit. I could paint these and the road wheels separately at a later stage. The drive sprocket has a rather nasty sink mark on the outer surface and unlike my Wirbelwind, I decided to sand the entire area back and add some Grandt-Line bolt heads directly to the sanded surface.

TURRET

The next stage of the build process was the turret and the first steps were to remove the cupola splashguard from the roof and fill in the ventilator and S-mine points. I then joined the various turret parts together and filled the few gaps where necessary. I wanted to achieve some subtle weld beads on the turret roof and sides, so I deviated from the technique used on the hull and used strips of Tamiya masking tape placed either side of where the weld should be. I then filled in the gap with a slurry mix of Tamiya Putty and liquid glue (mixed in equal parts). When the mix had formed a skin I used the end of an Excel blade to score the weld pattern into the putty.

RECESSED SCREWS

I wanted to produce the semi recessed screw holes on the turret roof, but had no idea on their locations, so I put out a plea for help on 'Missing Links' and Mr Tom Cockle responded, providing me with plans of the turret roof with all the information I needed to add all the missing screws by carefully drilling them out. From this plan I was able to drill out holes to represent these recessed screw holes. I then added the late ventilator and S-mine fittings as per the positions outlined on the drawings. Most of the extra detail came from the Hauler update set (HLX48057) and were then fitted to the turret, including the very tricky to bend turret splashguard!

I then attached the Commander's late style single piece hatch, which replaced the earlier pattern split hatches seen on all previous panzer IVs. The last part of the turret build was the fitting of the turret Schurzen. I have used the Hauler set (HLX48049), which includes 'plate type' hull Schurzen as well. The set is very good, with my only criticism being, there are not any plan view drawings included of where the attachment brackets fit. This proved to be very frustrating, as I fitted the brackets to the turret first, in what I thought were the correct positions, only to find them to be slightly out when I attached the Schurzen itself! The only option I had was to remove the brackets from the turret (not easy!) and attach them to the Schurzen and then, attach the semi complete assembly to the turret. Again, this proved to be frustrating and very time consuming. I have to add here, that all of the updates I had were pretty much the same in regard to how to fit the Schurzen, so my criticism is not just with Hauler but indeed all the current photo etch manufacturers. The last part of the turret assembly was to attach the quite stunning Armour Scale barrel (B48-009). This is a stunning piece of the 'machinist art' and is well worth the purchase price.

THORMA SHIELDS

I then switched to the Hull Schurzen and this part of the build process proved to be the most time consuming and frustrating experience of all. The Editor had provided me with the mesh type Schurzen from Eduard, Aber and Part. Feeling, pretty much like Goldilocks in the 'Three Bears' fable. I was forced to choose which set was more accurate. The Eduard set was quickly discounted as the mesh itself was of the wrong 'pitch per square inch' and a number of accuracy issues were noted with this set. The Part set had a better 'pitch per square inch' ratio but this pitch was not quite right compared to my reference sources. The Aber set on the other hand was a joy to behold, not only did it have the correct pitch but it provided the tubular mountings in the form of brass tubes. The brackets were attached to the hull and proved to be very easy to build. The Schurzen itself, however, was a very different matter. The pitch of the mesh (which attracted me to this set) proved to be so delicate that it split not just in one place but several! I pressed on but was unable to fix the mounting strips around the mesh in any convincing fashion; they were either slightly crooked or slightly overlapping. After completing one side and looking at the splits in the mesh, I decided to scrap this set. Basically it proved too hard to build and the splits in the mesh were quite frankly, unsightly. The Part set was the complete antitheses to the Aber set (even though the pitch is off); the 'build-ability' of the set was a breeze in comparison. It went together without any fuss at all! I purposefully assembled the hull Schurzen as a one-piece item on both sides. My reasoning behind this was it would be easier to paint if I did it this way.

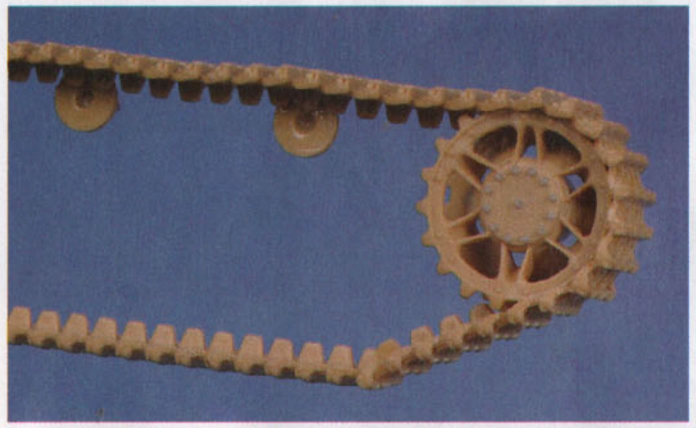
READY TO PAINT

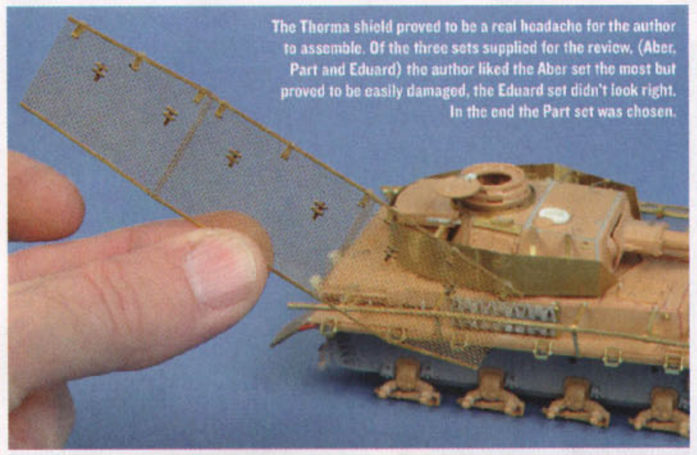
Once the remaining smaller details had been added to the hull and turret, the entire model was washed in soapy water and left to dry fully for a few days before giving the model a base coat of Tamiya Surface Primer in preparation for the painting process. This is a great product, as it shrinks as it dries, giving the smaller details a better chance of survival with all the handling in the painting process to follow.

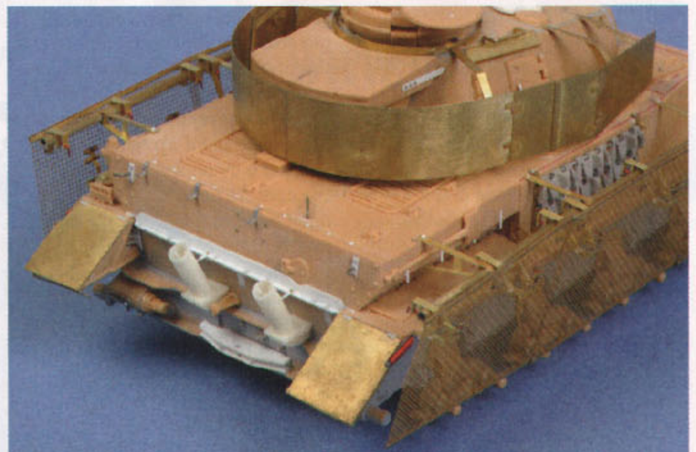
FIGURE

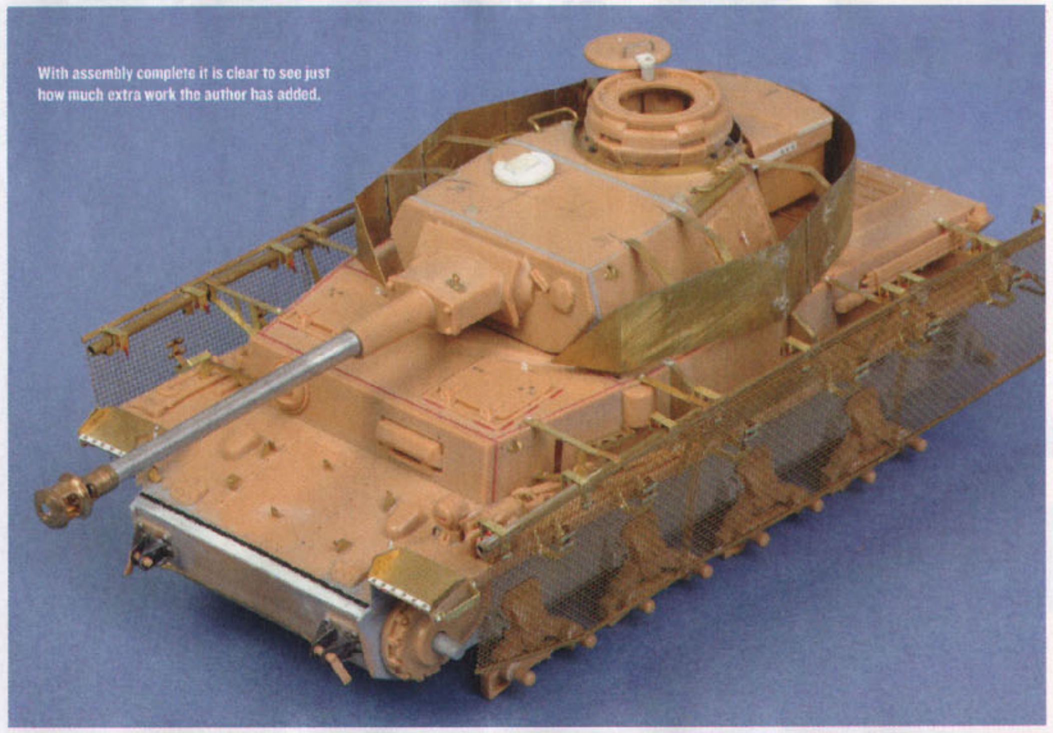
The figure is an amalgam of a Tamiya figure and parts from ICM's Ground Crew set (48081), which with the help of some surgery was made to fit into the cupola in a 'leaning forward' position, that I think is a great pose for adding some drama. Various parts of the arms and legs of this figure were sculpted from Milliput and the figure was then painted in Humbrol enamels. ▶

The 'link and length' track was assembled by first temporarily fixing the road wheels in place with Blu-Tack then carefully assembling the track as normal once the glue had set, the wheels and tracks could be removed as one to be painted separately.


The central hubcaps of Tamiya sprockets suffer from sink marks; this was remedied by first removing the bolt heads, then sanding the sink marks out. Grandt-Line bolts were used to replace the kit parts.


The Therma shield proved to be a real headache for the author to assemble. Of the three sets supplied for the review. (Aber. Part and Eduard) the author liked the Aber set the most but proved to be easily damaged, the Eduard set didn't look right. In the end the Part set was chosen.


The author had a bit of trouble adding the Hauler etched brass turret Schurzen due to the fact the instructions didn't show clearly enough where the fixing brackets located. The late style 'stove pipe' exhaust also came from Hauler.


With assembly complete it is clear to see just how much extra work the author has added.

◀ PAINTING

The model was sprayed with a Tamiya Dark Yellow XF-60 mixed with equal parts of Tamiya Buff XF-57 with a little White XF-2 added to tone it down. This was done after a discussion with one of my modelling friends and it was our conclusion that a lot of German armour had more of a Buff colour than a yellow colour that is so often seen. The paint was thinned 30% paint, 70% thinner. I generally spray with a higher-pressure air mix than most (in my case 35psi) for the first pass, as I tend to do a few light coats rather than one thick coat. I then sprayed Tamiya XF-58 toned down with XF-59 for the camouflage colour. The lines were sprayed in an inward direction to keep the demarcation as tight as possible.

WEATHERING

When the painting stage was complete, I mixed a wash of Black XF-1 and Red Brown XF-64 together in an equal mix thinned with 85% thinner with the pressure set to about 20psi and sprayed all the recesses of the tank. This is what you might call a 'post shading' technique and I generally like the results more than the pre-shading technique, which tends to be more common today. The track assembly was treated as a separate paint project and was painted only once (thankfully). With the contact points on the track itself painted Silver the weathering was kept fairly light, as I was trying to convey a new tank with only a few months of action behind it. The lower part of the tank, together with the running gear was then sprayed with a diluted mix of Tamiya XF-52 Flat Earth. The mud was a mix of equal parts of Mig Productions Dark Mud pigment, soil from my garden and a raw umber 'Matisse' that I had picked up in an art supply store. The mix was applied to the road wheels, tracks and lower hull in a random pattern. When complete, the areas treated were highlighted with a thin oil paint wash and dry-brush in a sand/white mix.

FOLIAGE

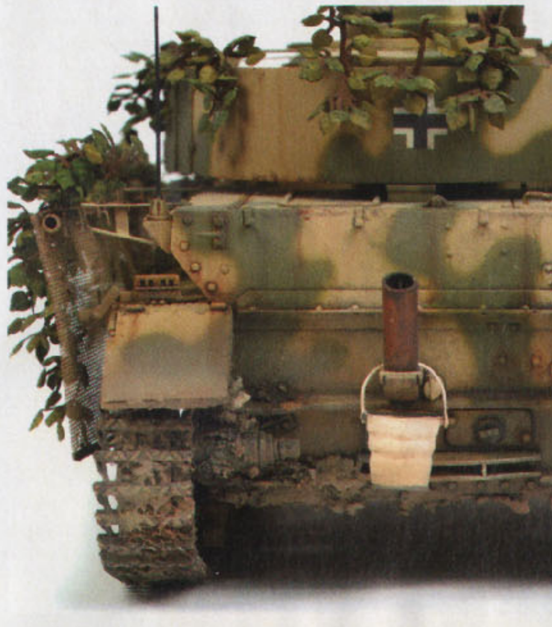
The last step is the attachment of foliage. I have used an entire paper fret of 'Kamizukuri 48th Generic' foliage on my model. This was obtained from the Tusca website and I was keen to try it (as I was looking for something a little quicker than the Scale link material I generally use). Firstly, the paper fret was prepared with a light coat of green. If you look closely at any tree you will notice that not all the leaves are the same colour. To that end, I sprayed the entire fret green and picked out some leaves on the fret with a yellow/green mix and others with a brown/green mix. The next step was to paint the stems a brown or brownie grey, I used Vallejo flat earth 983 for this. When this was complete, I used an oil wash on the branches.

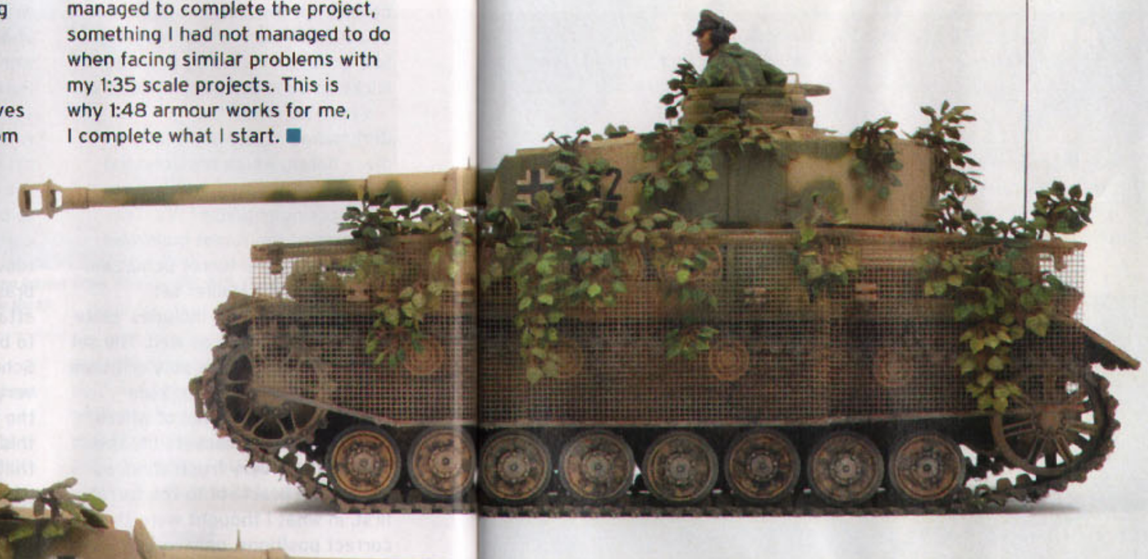
The foliage could now be cut from the paper fret and once done the leaves were bent between my thumb and forefinger into a slightly rounded shape, noting that the curl should go the length of the leaf. When complete the branches were then bent and twisted into the desired shape. This paper foliage was then attached to roots I dug up from my garden.

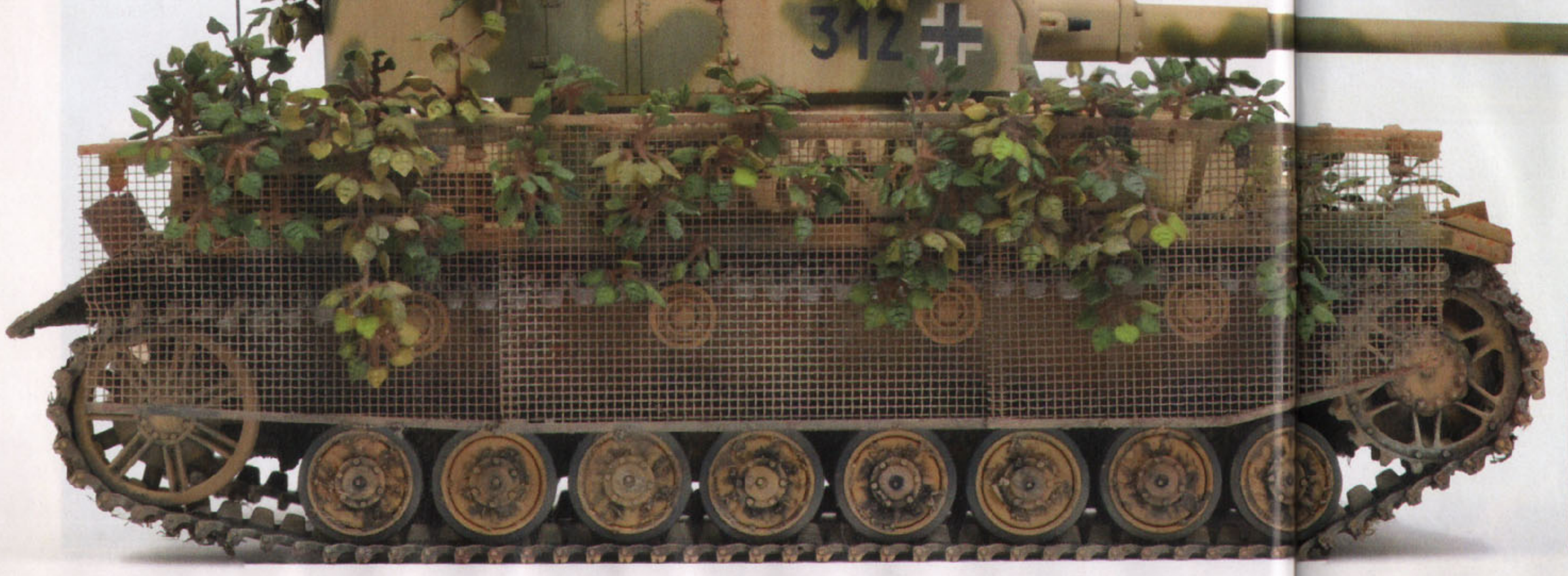
The last step is to apply the foliage using PVA glue and touching up the ends of the leaves where they have come away from the paper fret. I tend to then pick out a few leaves with Vallejo Golden Olive and Olive Green to add a further bit of contrast. At this stage the model had a slightly semi-gloss finish, which I wanted to neutralise and the best matt varnish I have found to date is Vallejo's '520' mixed with distilled water, which produces a dead flat finish and blends everything in.

CONCLUSION

This build proved to be a difficult one; there were a number of issues with the attachment of the various etched brass sets. The build itself stretched out to about four months in total, which is a huge amount of time for a model of this size. The main problem stemmed from the build-ability of some of the photo etch sets employed and in some instances vague instructions. In the end I used the parts that were easiest to use and even with all the problems encountered I still managed to complete the project, something I had not managed to do when facing similar problems with my 1:35 scale projects. This is why 1:48 armour works for me, I complete what I start. ■







THANKS

I would like to thank the following people in sharing their knowledge with me they are Ross Ferro for his views on German tank colours, Bill Wiseman for his track help and advice, Tom Cockle for the drawing help and Brett Green for his photographic skills and time.

Modelspec

Tamiya 1:48 Panzer IV Ausf. J **Kit No. 32518**

Sets used

Hauler HLX48059 Pz IV Schurzen
Hauler HLX48057 Pz IV Update
Hauler HLX48116 Pz IV Late Exhaust Pipes
Part P48-016 Mesh Side Skirts
World War 2 Productions 1:48 Panzer IV Tracks
Kamizukuri 48th Generic Foliage
Archer Surface Details #6
Armour Scale Barrel (B48-009)

Paints used

Tamiya
XF-2 Flat White, XF-57 Buff, XF-69 NATO Black, XF-18 Medium Blue, XF-1 Black, XF-52 Flat Earth, XF60 Dark Yellow, XF-9 Hull Red, XF-58 Olive Green, XF-26 Deep Green
Humbrol
Metal Coat 27004 Gun metal, Grey Met 53, Matt White 34, Wood Brown 62, Green 80, Brown 62, Black 33, Sand 63
Vallejo
Silver "848", Matt Varnish "520", Golden Olive "857", Olive Green "967"

Materials used

Squadron Green Putty, Testors Liquid Glue, Mitsubishi UM-120NM Silver Pen, Generic superglue, Mig Dark Mud Pigment P033, Generic raw umber Matisse.

Tools used

Waldron Sub-Miniature Punch and Die Set
Small Shop Brass Assist Roller set
Small Shop 'Hold and Fold'
Mission Models 'Grab Handler'

References

Achtung Panzer No. 3
Die Panzer IV Family Podzen
Panzer IV in Action Squadron
Tom Cockle Drawings
Various Concord Books

✓ Quality of the tooling.
✗ Simplified metal lower hull.

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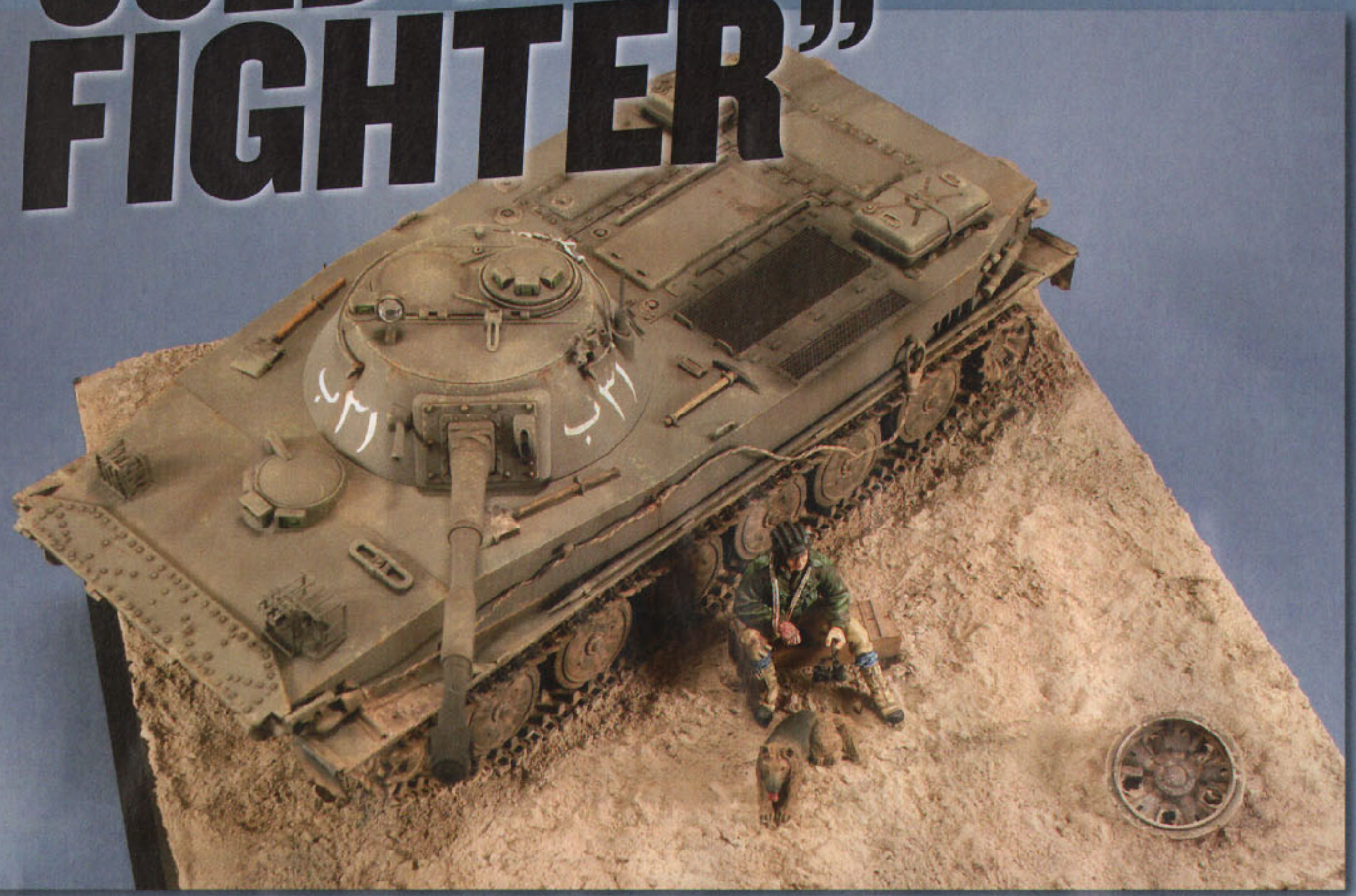


José Brito returns with another of his favourite Warsaw Pact vehicles, the PT-76.

The Plavayushchiy Tank with 76mm gun, or as it is more commonly known, the PT-76 appeared in the early 50s. Being the last of a long line of Russian amphibious tanks, which saw action in Vietnam, Bangladesh, the Middle East during the Arab-Israeli Wars and during the Iran-Iraq Angola... and it is still in use by many nations today.

The PT-76 had a design so good that its chassis was adapted for a large number of vehicles, possibly the most famous being the BTR-50 series of armoured personnel carriers.

CONSTRUCTION

From the start, my main idea was to build the Trumpeter PT-76 OOTB (out of the box), just as a quick project and a review. The PT-76 was also the second Trumpeter model I have built and I must say from my experience so far, I have found their models are generally good in both accuracy and detail.

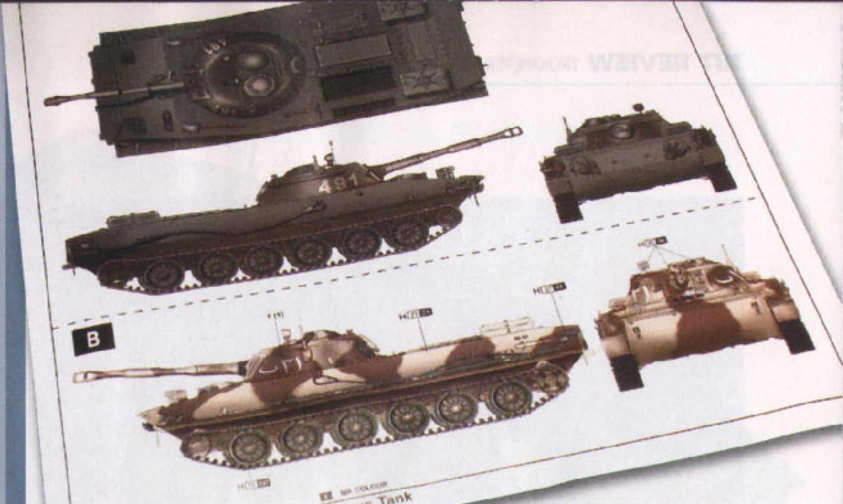
All we need to build a good replica is inside the box and as I mentioned earlier I wanted this to be an OOTB build, so the only extra detail I added was in the form of some replacement grab handles made from thin wire.

As usual the construction started with the lower hull and running gear. The model is very easy to assemble, the PT-76 is not a complicated vehicle at all and even with the inclusion of some photo etched parts the construction is done in a short time with no problems at all and would make a perfect model for a beginner.

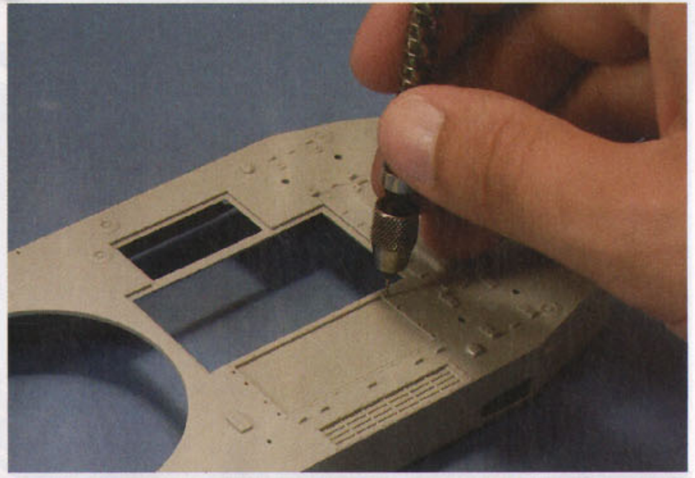
TRACK TROUBLES

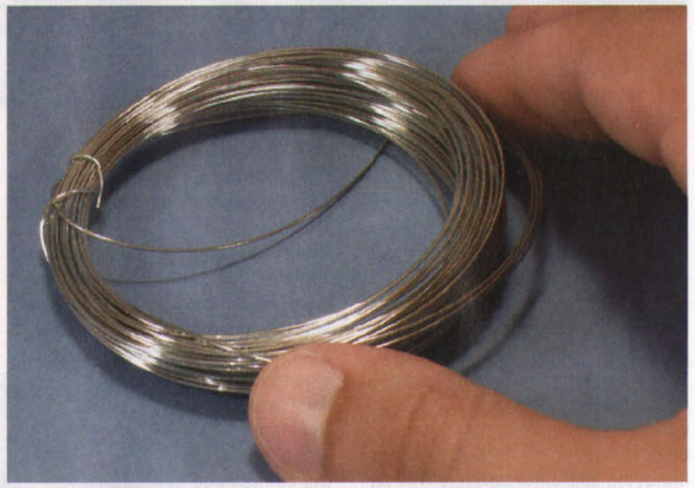
The only real setback with the whole kit are the vinyl tracks. They do feature decent detail, but once in place they still look like vinyl tracks! They look really bad. Fortunately a good friend of mine came my rescue and provided me with some excellent resin tracks from Armo of Poland. Once in place they looked great and really improved the final look of the model. My first model from Trumpeter was the SAM-6 and that kit looked good, featuring quality individual link injection moulded tracks, so I can't understand why Trumpeter chose to not include individual-link style tracks in this kit?

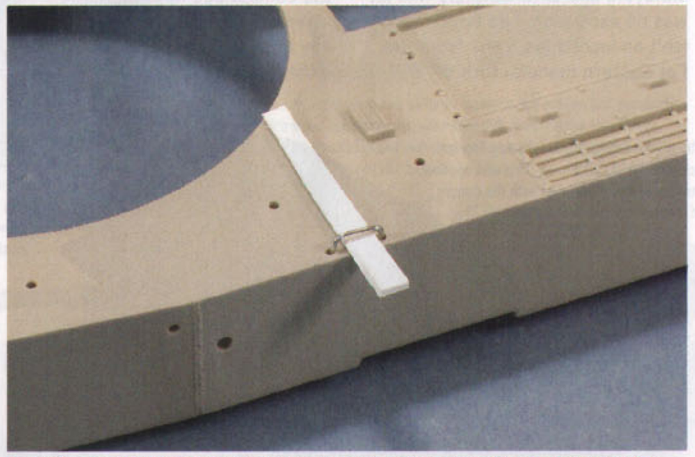
With the basic construction complete it was time to add some small pieces from the spares box and these included some spare track links, metal tow cables and some minor accessories to give the vehicle a 'used' look. Now, it's time to start one of my favourite steps, the painting. ▶



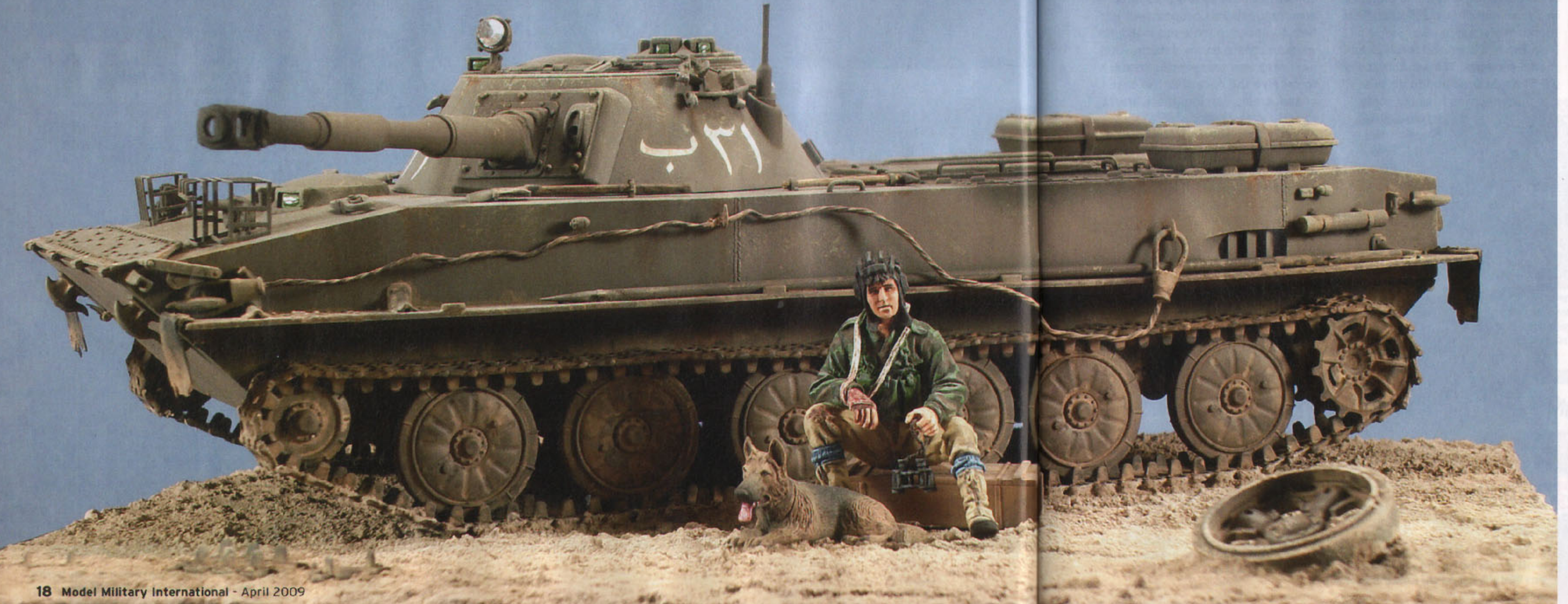
As mentioned by the author in the article, the painting guide doesn't include all the views to copy the camouflage scheme, nor does it give any information about the users of the schemes included!



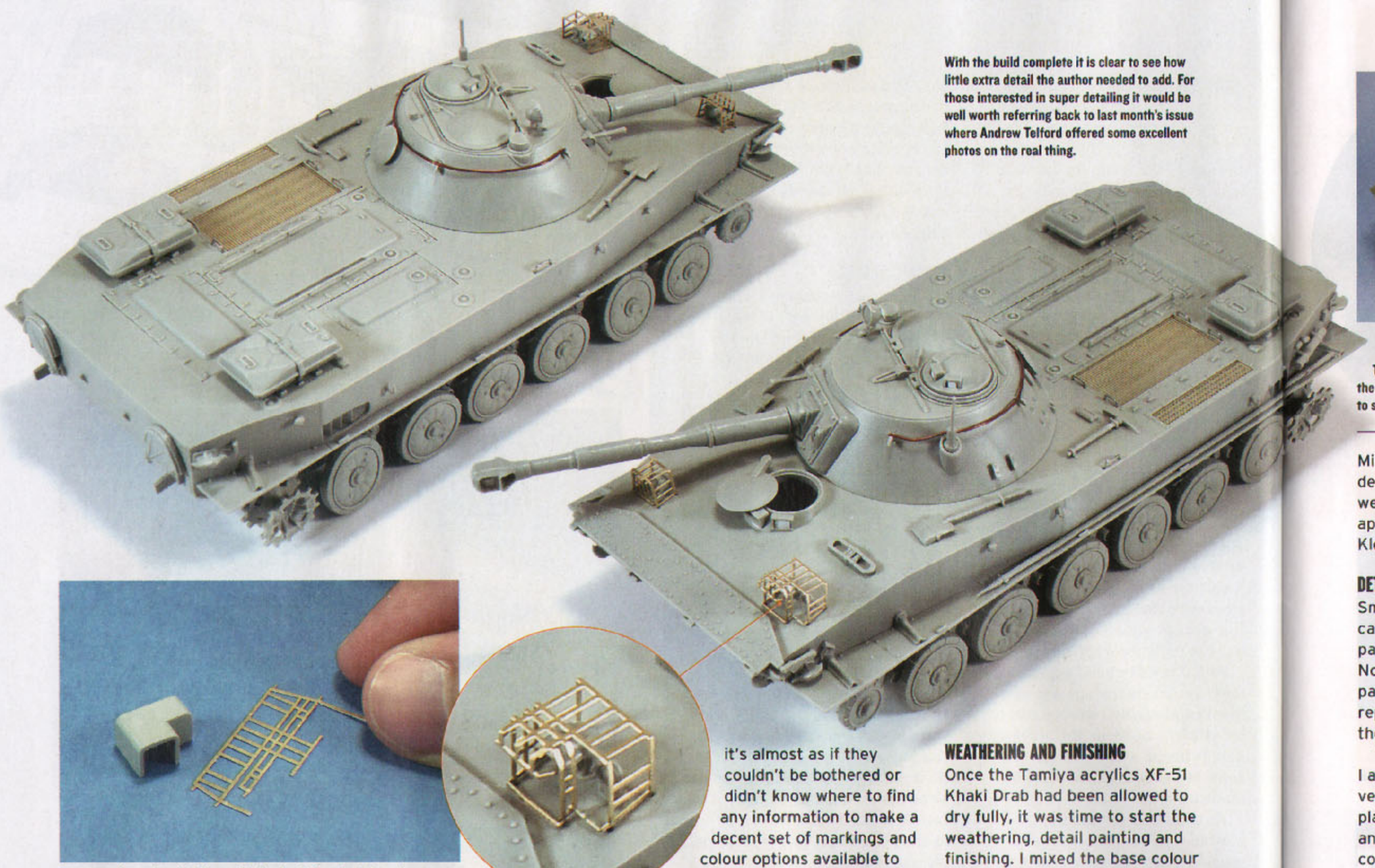




Small holes were drilled into the upper deck to accept the replacement grab handles made from thin metal wire. The lengths of wire were looped over and threaded through the holes and pulled tight from the inside. Note the small strip of plastic card that has been inserted to shape the soft wire as it is pulled tight from the inside using a pair of pliers.



With the build complete it is clear to see how little extra detail the author needed to add. For those interested in super detailing it would be well worth referring back to last month's issue where Andrew Telford offered some excellent photos on the real thing.



Trumpeter have thoughtfully provided a plastic jig to help form the complex etched brass headlight guards.

PAINTING PROCESS

Before I apply any paint to this model I would just like to point out that in some of the latest kits I have built, the instructions don't provide all the information regarding what colour certain parts should be. Neither do they give specific details on the placement of the markings and the actual camouflage schemes and the colours needed. This is really annoying and unfortunately this kit was no exception. I do hope this isn't an increasing trend from the Far Eastern manufacturers!

MARKING MYSTERIES

Trumpeter provides two colour scheme and decal options; one from what I think is a Russian vehicle (judging the box art it certainly looks Russian?) and another in Arabic markings. In both cases the five-view profiles are incomplete and the box side colour illustrations seem to contradict the colour guide leaflet in the actual box! Do I have to guess the camouflage in the missing views? Trumpeter don't provide any information about the country either, which I find really annoying, it's almost as if they couldn't be bothered or didn't know where to find any information to make a decent set of markings and colour options available to the modeller. I thought I would do some research myself using the internet and some books, but unfortunately I didn't have much luck in finding PT-76s in use with Arabic nations, only some pictures in Syrian markings during the Yum Kippur War.

In the end I decided to paint my model in overall Tamiya Acrylics XF-51 Khaki Drab and to do this the first step was to apply some thin coats of Tamiya acrylics XF-10 Flat Brown as a primer. I like to apply thin coats of this colour to preserve the surface details, I also like this colour as it acts as a good pre-shade colour for the subsequent camouflage paints.

WEATHERING AND FINISHING

Once the Tamiya acrylics XF-51 Khaki Drab had been allowed to dry fully, it was time to start the weathering, detail painting and finishing. I mixed the base colour with some Tamiya XF-02 Flat White and started to airbrush the centre of the panels. This process must be completed with the paint very well diluted and with the compressor set to low pressure, around 10psi. This process will help to enhance the used look I want to create on my vehicle. The next step was prepare the model to receive the decals. In the case of the Arabic version, there aren't exactly a lot of decals to apply, or much information if I'm to be honest, so in the places where the decals are to be placed, I applied a small patch of Johnson's Klear and once dry, I applied the decals with the help of Micro sol and Micro set decal solutions. The decals are top quality and they went on very well. Once dry I apply another coat of Johnson's Klear to seal the decals in place.

DETAIL PAINTING

Small details like the tools, tow cables and periscopes were painted with Vallejo acrylics. Normally I paint the wooden parts with different colours to represent the different origins of the wood and tools.

With the help of a small sponge I applied numerous scratches with very light green in the most logical places, to represent everyday wear and tear. This process is very time consuming and attention must be paid so as not to over do this effect. Sometimes it is all too easy to get carried away during this stage of the weathering process making the effect look unrealistic.

With all the details picked out, the next step was to apply a very diluted wash of Winsor & Newton 35 Raw Umber mixed with Winsor & Newton Sansodor (Low Odour Solvent). This was followed with a very diluted mix of Winsor & Newton Titanium White, Lamp Black and Burnt Sienna, these all helped to add subtle tonal variations to the basic colours, which help to make the model look more interesting to the eye without the model looking unrealistic.

With the oils fully dry, which can take several days, it was time to apply some pigments and pastel powders. For the pigments I used the Mig productions P028 Dark Mud and MIG P038 Europe Dust and for the pastel powders I used a selection of colours from my collection, mainly earth and dust tones. The pigments/pastels were mixed with water and Talens Amsterdam Acrylic Medium 117 Matt. These mixes were then applied in and around the running gear, tracks and any recessed areas, such as panel lines.

FIGURE AND DOG

The figure used is the Mig Productions Lebanese Fighter MP 35-167 and it's awesome. The detail is great and the pose very natural. I only added the sling to secure the wounded arm and binoculars from the spare parts box (Tamiya, I think).

I painted the figure as I do for any I build in 1:35, I first airbrushed the entire figure in Tamiya Acrylics Flat Flesh XF-15. The flesh areas were then shaded and highlighted in oil paints (this technique was covered in a previous Last Post Techniques guide, The Ed) The rest of the figure was painted with Vallejo acrylics.

The dog is from an old Tamiya kit and has been in my spares box for several years so I thought this would be the perfect scene to include it. The painting was straightforward and mainly completed using Vallejo acrylics sprayed through my airbrush set at low pressure. The final details were hand painted using acrylics. ▶

The model was first primed using Tamiya Acrylics XF-10 Flat Brown. This was applied instead of one thick layer with the danger of loosing the fine surface detail.

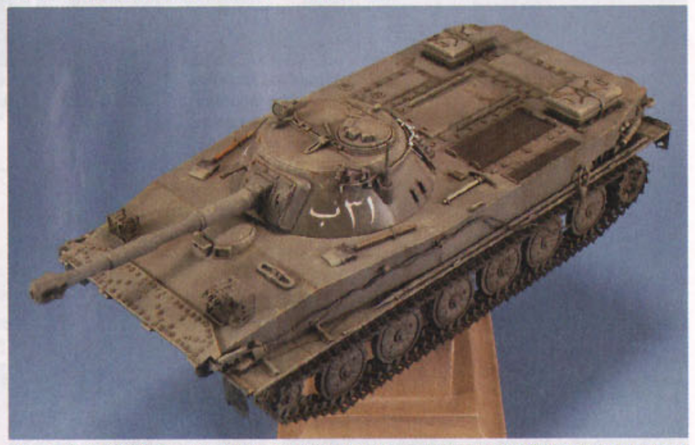
ACETONA
TAMIYA PUTTY

Once the primer coat had been applied it highlighted a couple of areas that required a bit of extra work, these were filled with Tamiya Putty thinned with acetone.

The next step was to airbrush on the basic camouflage colour, which consisted of a coat of Tamiya acrylics Khaki Drab XF-51. This was then followed by adding some Tamiya Flat White XF-02 to the Khaki, then misting this lightened tone to the centre of the panels to start the weathering process.

Once the decals had been applied and all the small details painted a small piece of sponge loaded with very light green was used to apply small random chips and scratches in the places, which would attract the most wear and tear.

The model received a colourwash using various coloured oil paints thinned with Winsor & Newton Sansodor low odour solvent.

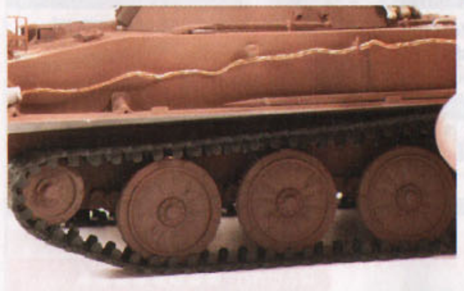


The completed PT-76. Compare this photo to the photo where only the base Khaki Drab has been applied, it is now easy to see how much these simple weathering steps bring the model to life.

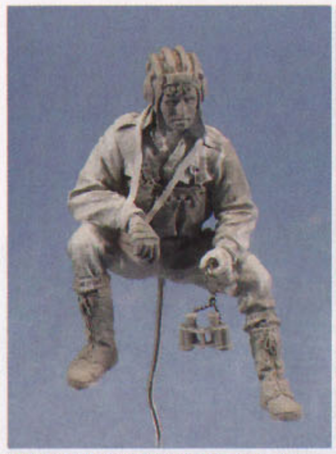
The vinyl tracks provided in the kit were glued with the help of Revell Contacta Professional.

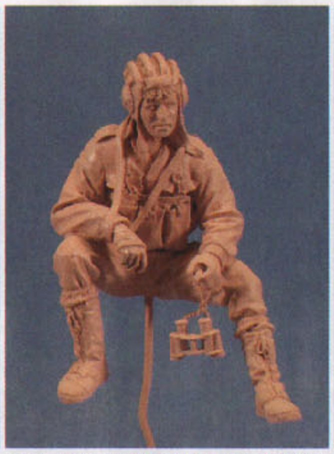
As usual, vinyl tracks don't sit naturally along the top run of the road wheels so the track needs gluing to the tops of the wheels. While the glue is setting, small strips of balsa wood are used to keep the tracks in place.

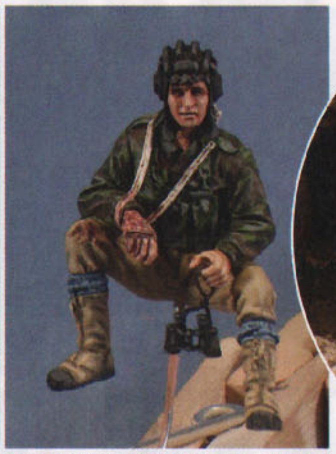
Fortunately a friend of the author's came to the rescue and provided him with some replacement individual link resin tracks from Armo. These resin tracks looked very impressive and once in place they dramatically improved the model.

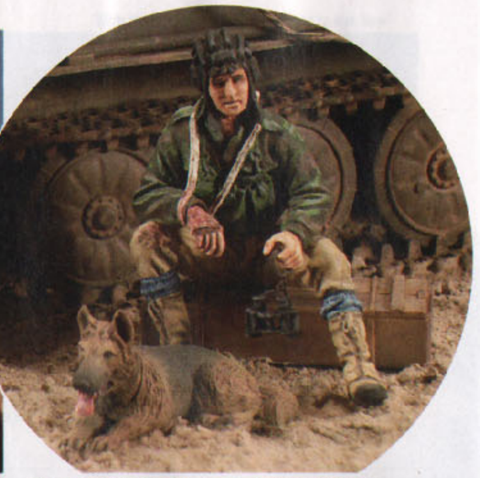


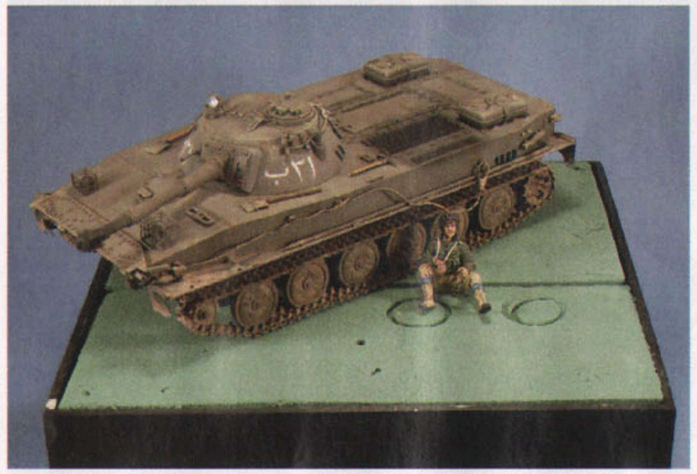
As can be seen here, gluing them in place didn't work very well! 'Link and length' injection plastic tracks would have been much better in the author's opinion.


Mig Productions supplied the tanker figure. A sling was added to support his injured arm and his AK-47 was swapped for a set of binoculars.


The figure was primed using Tamiya Acrylics XF-15, which was airbrushed over the entire figure. This colour is also the perfect undercoat for the oils to be used on the flesh areas.

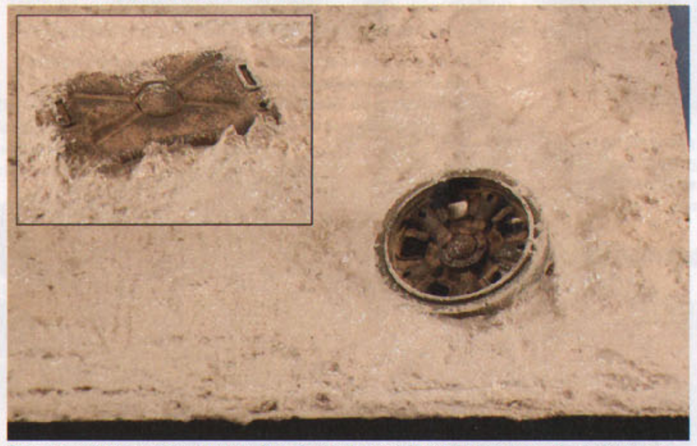

Once the flesh areas had been completed the rest of the figure was painted using Vallejo acrylics.


The Tamiya dog the author had in his spares box was the perfect accompaniment for the figure. It was mainly painted using an airbrush job. Only the smallest details were picked out using acrylics.


Base composition. The wooden base was framed with balsa wood and then filled with oasis foam

The products used for making the terrain is readily available and inexpensive to purchase. These include DIY wall filler, water, acrylic brown and beige paint and some very fine sand used in birdcages.

All the ingredients once mixed, formed a paste like chocolate mousse.


The paste applied over the oasis foam. Note the small parts, which have been pressed over the terrain. They add some visual spots of interest but don't distract the observer from the focal point, which is the tank itself.

BASE AND DISPLAY

I always like to put my models onto some sort of base, I don't think they are fully finished until they are placed into a scene. Even a small base can tell a lot about the vehicle, history, place, conflict, weather conditions...

Also I like my bases to have some height and with contours if possible and for that I normally use a wooden base with balsa wood walls, I then fill the interior with oasis foam. It's cheap, easy to find, easy to cut and lightweight.

For the terrain I used a mix of water, acrylic brown paint, fine sand (used in bird cages) and Robbialac Aguaplast. Robbialac Aguaplast is a pre-made filler used in civil construction and is water based. It's a good solution to make terrains, mud...

The paste was applied over the oasis foam with the help of a medium brush. Some small pieces from the spare parts box were placed into the plaster mix before it had set. I used some spare track links, a wooden box and a tank road wheel to represent the remains of a battlefield. A final dusting with pigments tied all the items together and completed the scene.

CONCLUSION AND FINAL THOUGHTS

In the end I was very happy with this model. Besides the vinyl tracks and the lack of information about the colour/users markings, it's a nice kit that it can be turned into a great model. It also offers great value for money featuring decent tooling, good quality plastic, nicely printed decals and a small PE sprue.

I can honestly say this is a good model for all fans of modern armour and offers plenty of build and painting potential. ■

The wreckage was painted with the same care as the main vehicle. This is important as accessories; stowage and secondary items, which have been rushed, can spoil the overall effect.

Modelspec

1:35 Trumpeter, PT-76 Amphibious Tank   kit No. 00380

Sets used

1:35 MIG Productions- Lebanese Fighter, kit No. 35-167
ARMO – Resin tracks for PT-76, Shilka, ASU-85, KUB, Kit No. 35551

Paints used

Vallejo acrylics
822 SS Camo Black Brown (2), 951 White, 950 Black, 893 US Dark Green, 826 Cam. Medium Brown (4), 914 Green Ochre, 058 Matt Varnish.
Tamiya acrylics
XF-15 Flat Flesh, XF-1 Flat Black, XF-2 Flat White, XF-51 Khaki Drab, XF-68 NATO Brown , XF-57 Buff.
Talens acrylics
Talens Amsterdam Acrylic Medium 117 Matt.
Pigments
MIG P028 Dark Mud, MIG P038 Europe Dust.
Oil colours
Winsor & Newton Oil Colours 35 Raw Umber, 2 Burnt Sienna, 40 Titanium White, 25 Lamp Black.

Other materials

Aguaplast - Robbialac, Fine sand.

✓ Original subject, good detail, good surface detail and accurate.

✗ Really bad painting and marking guide and poor vinyl tracks.

Available from

Armo products are available direct from www.jadar.com.pl
Mig Productions products are distributed in the UK by Creative Models www.creativemodels.co.uk
Armo products are available in the UK from Lou Stener at www.armour-models.co.uk

Rating ●●●●●●●●○○

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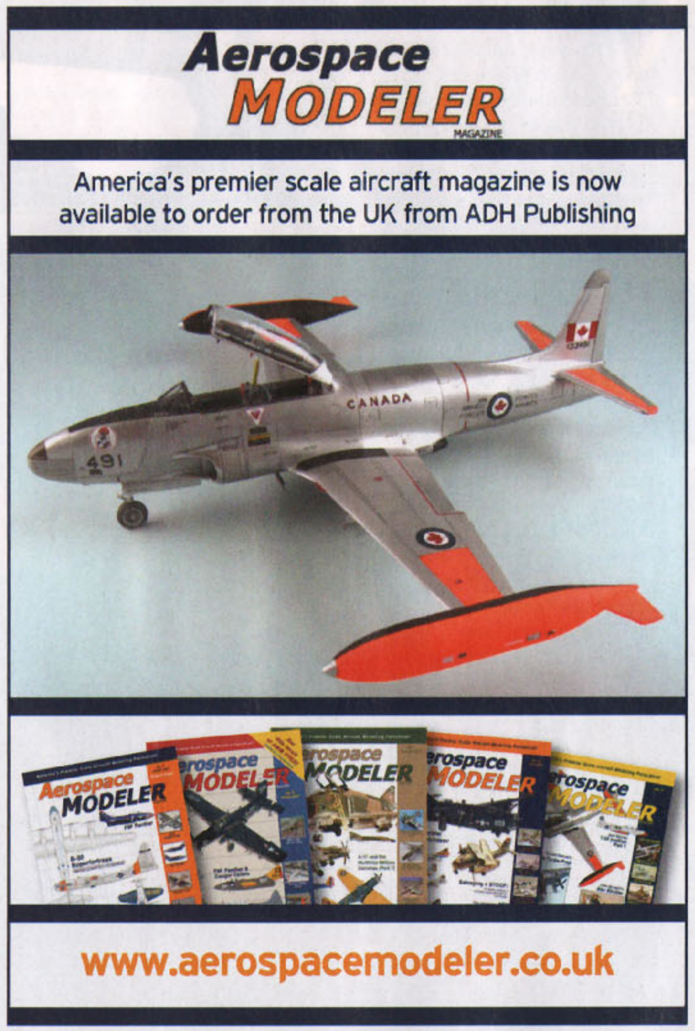
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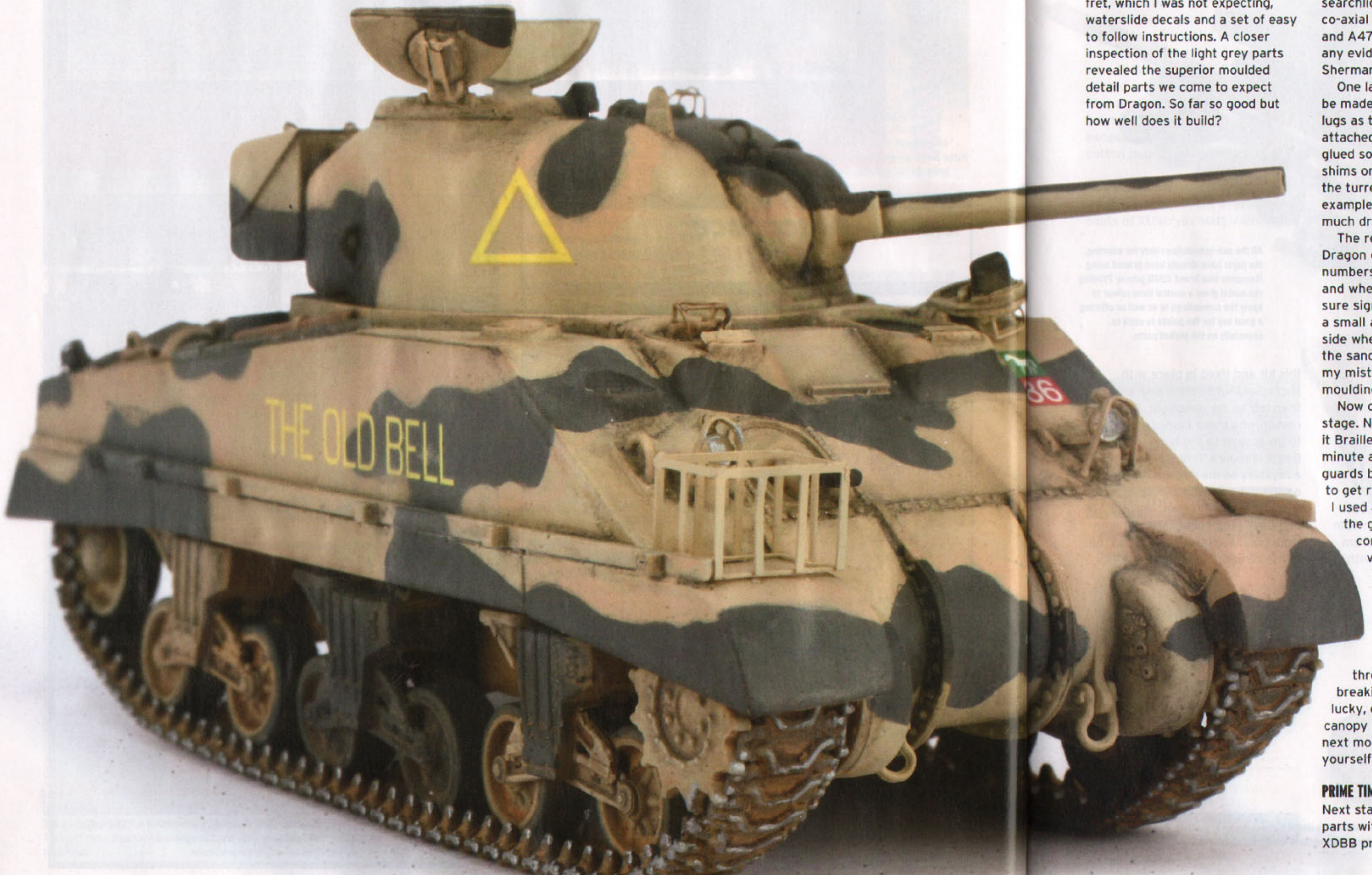
IT'S A DING-DONG SHERMAN!

Mick Capell builds Dragon's 1:72 Sherman Mk.III as used by the British 8th Army in the Deserts of North Africa.



With the model finished, my efforts turn to writing this article and I discovered a remarkable fact about this famous tank : This was the only AFV to see action from the Pacific islands through jungles of the Far East to the beaches of Normandy and the vast Eastern Front. A unique record unsurpassed in modern warfare and likely to remain so.

This version is set geographically about halfway, in Syria to be precise. Of all the different versions and scales on offer these days this desert example stood out and is also included in Dragon's larger 1:35 scale range and even includes the same box art!

Inside are approximately 150 parts including a small but comprehensive etch parts fret, which I was not expecting, waterslide decals and a set of easy to follow instructions. A closer inspection of the light grey parts revealed the superior moulded detail parts we come to expect from Dragon. So far so good but how well does it build?

ADVANCE

I started with the turret, first I sprayed the interior matt black to obscure the lack of interior detail. There is a small gap between the upper and lower turret parts which was filled with Mr. Surfacer 500 putty using an old paint brush, which I also used to enhance the cast metal finish.

The rest of the assembly is perfect, I did however substitute the lifting eyes with a smaller diameter fuse wire as the size of the plastic parts are limited by the moulding process. The stowage bin handles also replaced the etch versions with even finer fuse wire and were bonded in place with Formula 560 canopy PVA glue. To fit the turret bin correctly, I used the painting guide to position it as there are no locating pins.

The instructions show a searchlight and a cover for the co-axial machine gun (parts A49 and A47) since I could not find any evidence of these on any Shermans, I left these parts off.

One last adjustment needs to be made to the turret ring location lugs as the fit is very loose when attached to the upper hull. I simply glued some 10 thou plastic card shims onto the lugs to prevent the turret rattling about, a good example of why you should do as much dry fitting in advance.

The rest of the build is simple. Dragon even include the casting numbers on the final drives and wheel bogey assemblies, a sure sign of quality. I did add a small amount of filler to one side where the front hull meets the sandshield but this is more my mistake for hurrying than a moulding design fault.

Now comes the photo-etch stage. Now I know why they call it Braille Scale, the parts are minute and very fragile. The light guards being the most difficult to get right are dealt with first. I used a cocktail stick to bend the guard around it, then compared it with the plastic version before gluing it in place again using PVA adhesive. To prove how strong the bond is, I had accidentally squashed and straightened one of the periscope guards three times without the joints breaking, impressive or maybe lucky, give this Formula 560 canopy PVA glue a try on your next modelling project and see for yourself.

PRIME TIME

Next stage is to airbrush all the parts with Hannant's own brand XDBB primer. When thinned 50/50 ▶

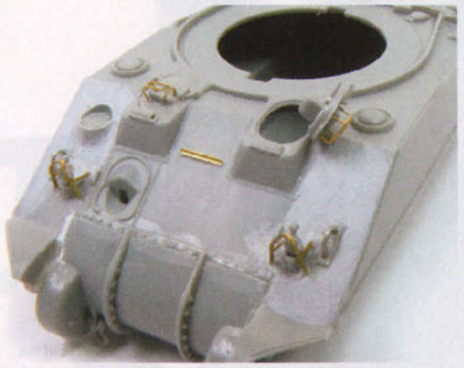
Before mating the two halves of the turret, the author painted the interior surfaces in matt black to hide the fact that no interior is included.

大きなキズ用
溶きパテ
Mr. HOBBY
Mr. SURFACER 500

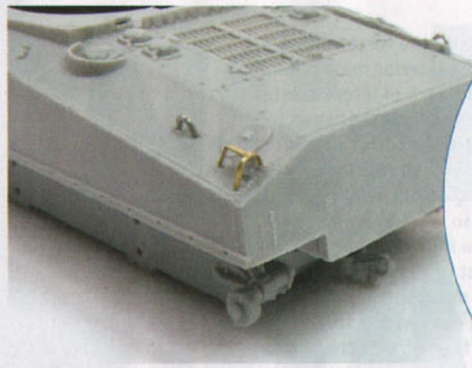
Mr. Surfacer 500 was used to fill the slight gap between the upper and lower turret halves, it was also used to add a cast texture to the turret by using a stippling motion.

Handles for the turret bin are included on the etched brass fret, but the author chose to use thin wire instead, feeling the etched brass parts were two-dimensional.

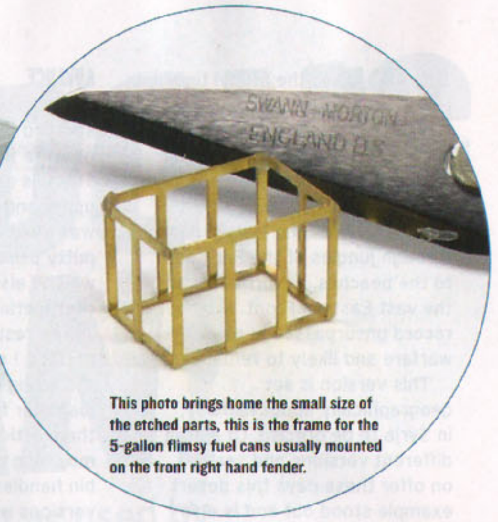
Here we can see the shim added to the turret locating tab. This 10 thou plastic card shim took up the sloppy fit of the turret.



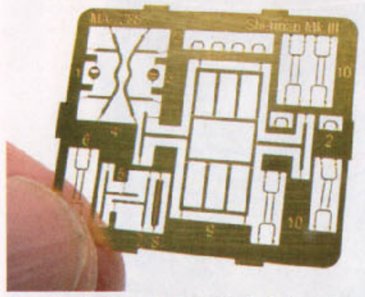
Hull front showing the etched brass fixtures in place. Note also the wire used to replace the lifting eyes and the fillet of plastic card used to fill the gap at the end of the 3-piece transmission.



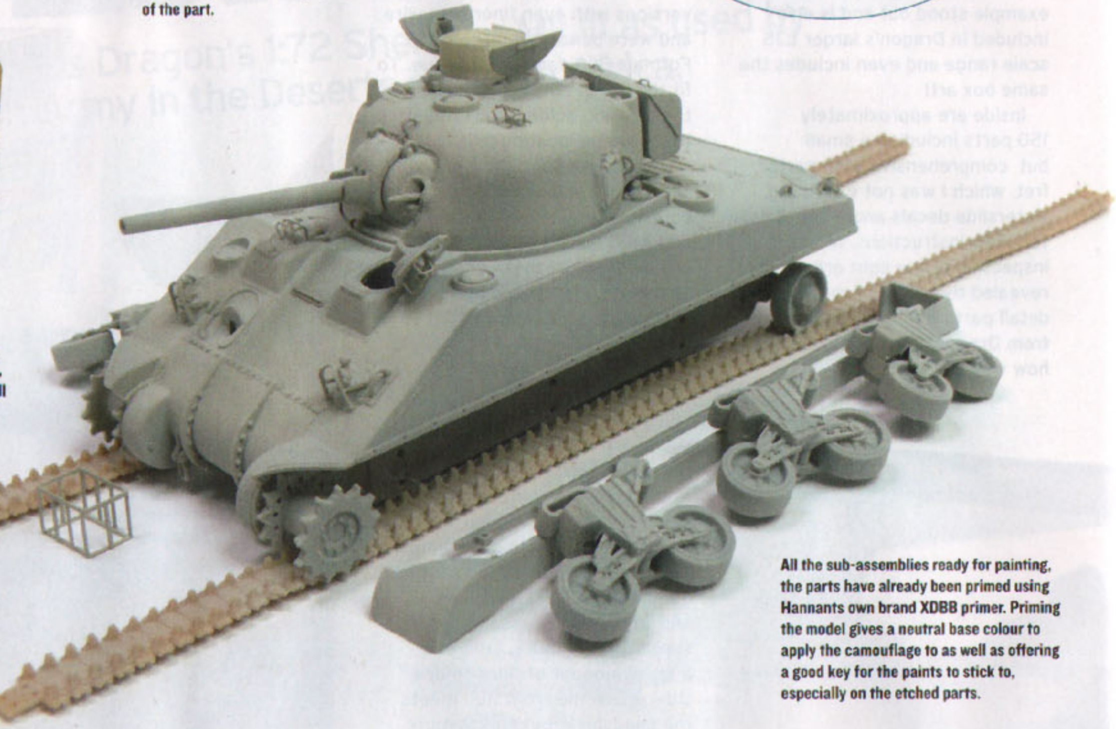
Etched brass tail light in place, these etched brass guards are a huge improvement over the equivalent plastic parts. The only downside can be bending them into shape, which can be tricky due to the small size of the part.



This photo brings home the small size of the etched parts, this is the frame for the 5-gallon flimsy fuel cans usually mounted on the front right hand fender.



A small etched brass fret is included, which contains all the useful items such as head and taillight guards, 5 gallon flimsy-can rack and periscope guards for hull and turret.



All the sub-assemblies ready for painting, the parts have already been primed using Hannants own brand XDBB primer. Priming the model gives a neutral base colour to apply the camouflage to as well as offering a good key for the paints to stick to, especially on the etched parts.

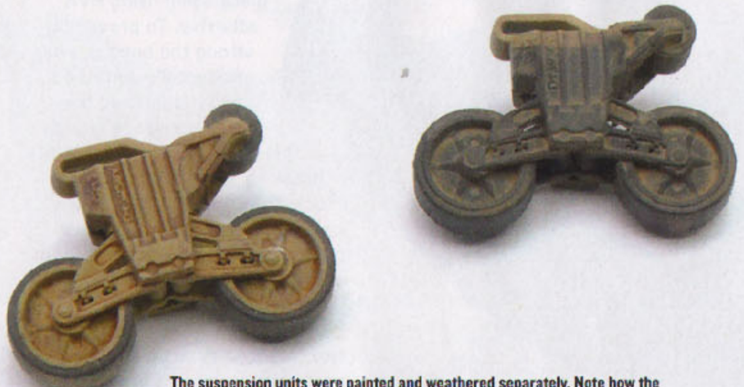
◀ with white spirit and sprayed at around 15psi gives the perfect light grey base without obscuring the detail, very important for this scale. For the sand colour I used Xtracrylix British Gulf Armour Light Stone, while this is intended for present day armour it is a very close match to the colour used on these particular vehicles from over sixty years ago!

The running gear was used as a test bed for the camouflage and weathering but using a slightly darker colour as a shading contrast effect to highlight the rest of the tank.

For the blue/black secondary camouflage colour I used Xtracrylix Panzer Grey. First of all the pattern was outlined in pencil then these areas were filled using a Vallejo paint brush, which in my opinion are the best paint brushes I have used and this is from a modeller that really dislikes brush painting! Any tidying of the outline was done by going back over the edges with the light stone and a smaller 000 sized Vallejo brush.

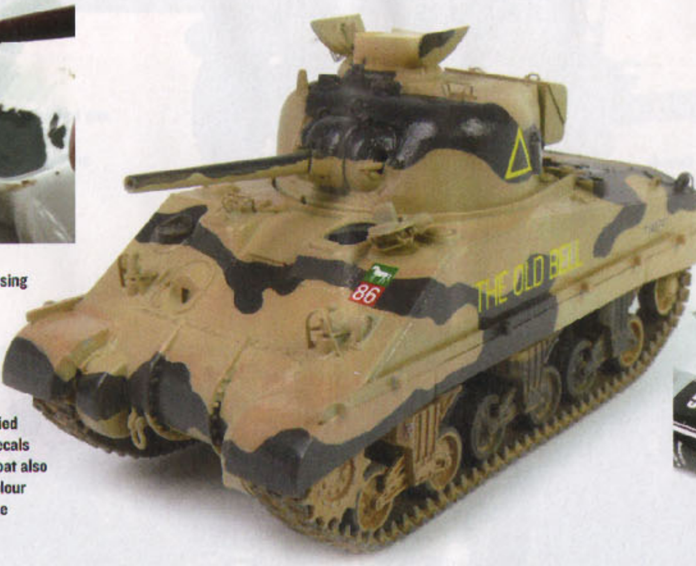
Once I was satisfied with the basic painting stages, the model was given a gloss coat in preparation for the decals and pin wash. I chose 'The Old Bell' from the three options available with this kit and fixed in place with Micro-Set/Sol solution and was then left to dry overnight. The reason why these names came to be applied to the tanks of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry remains a mystery to me despite research on the net and in libraries. I would be intrigued to find out, maybe one day? (The names are all taken from popular pubs from around the Wiltshire area. The Ed).

Painting under way, the author has chosen to use XA1813 British Gulf Armour Lt Stone from the Xtracolor range produced by Hannants.



The suspension units were painted and weathered separately. Note how the washes have helped to accentuate the detail, such as the casting numbers.

The blue/black disruptive camouflage scheme was first marked out with a pencil before being applied by brush using Xtracrylix Panzer Grey.



A coat of gloss varnish was applied to the entire model before the decals were fixed in place. This gloss coat also helped to control the oil paint colour washes that were added after the decals had dried fully.

502 Abteilung
modelling oil color
Abt080 Wash Brown
502 Abteilung
Abt110 Black

The model ready for the colourwash. Mig Productions Abteilung Wash Brown and Black oil paints chosen, these were thinned heavily with white spirit.

Back to the model, all recesses and raised parts such as bolts and joint lines received a thinned wash mixed from Mig Productions, superb Abteilung oil paints, in this case Wash Brown and Black heavily diluted with white spirit. The gloss coat applied beforehand really helps to pull in this wash and any excess can then be removed with a cotton bud or moist paint brush.

WEATHER OR NOT

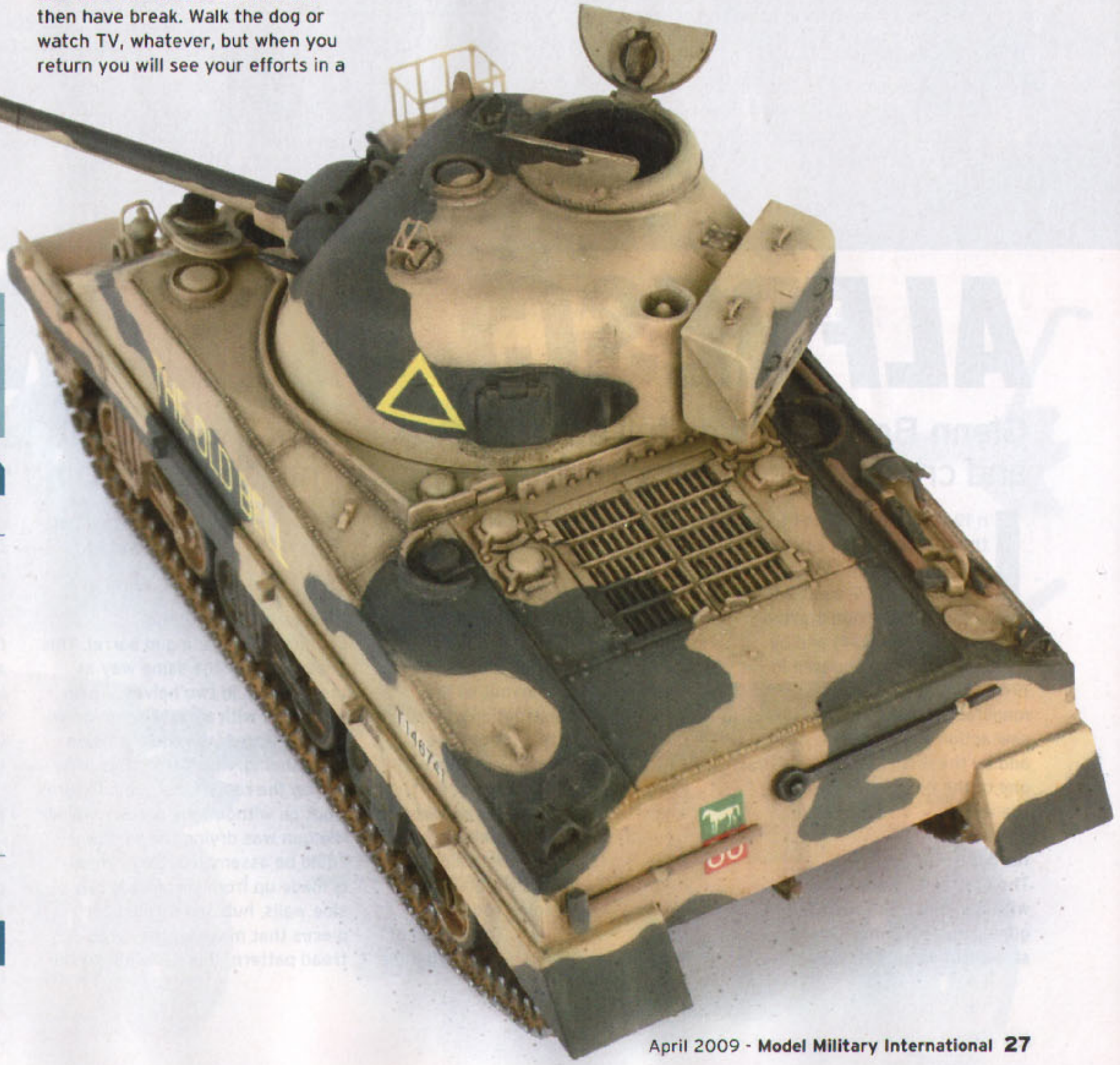
After a couple of light airbrushed coats of Xtracrylix Matt Varnish the result was reasonably good for this scale, but, there was something missing. Especially under the scrutiny of a digital camera lens and the readers of this publication.

Therefore I turned to the Mig Pigment range and a varied mix of Gulf War Sand and Light Dust was applied dry to various parts of the Sherman. The important thing to remember is to keep it subtle and do small areas at a time and then have break. Walk the dog or watch TV, whatever, but when you return you will see your efforts in a different light. Then you can decide when to add more or even change the colour or just say to yourself "that's enough".

The final part involves spraying a very diluted matt varnish to seal the pigment, one or two passes will be enough without loosing the weathering effect and will help protect the final finish.

VERDICT

Another mini Dragon kit built straight from the box and for me this scale really is becoming addictive, the presentation and fit is first class and the plans are easy to follow. What else can I say? 'A change is as good as a rest' as the saying goes. ■



Acknowledgements

Available from all good model shops, thanks to the Hobby Company for supplying the review sample.

Modelspec

Dragon 1:72 Sherman III **Item No. 7288**

Paints used

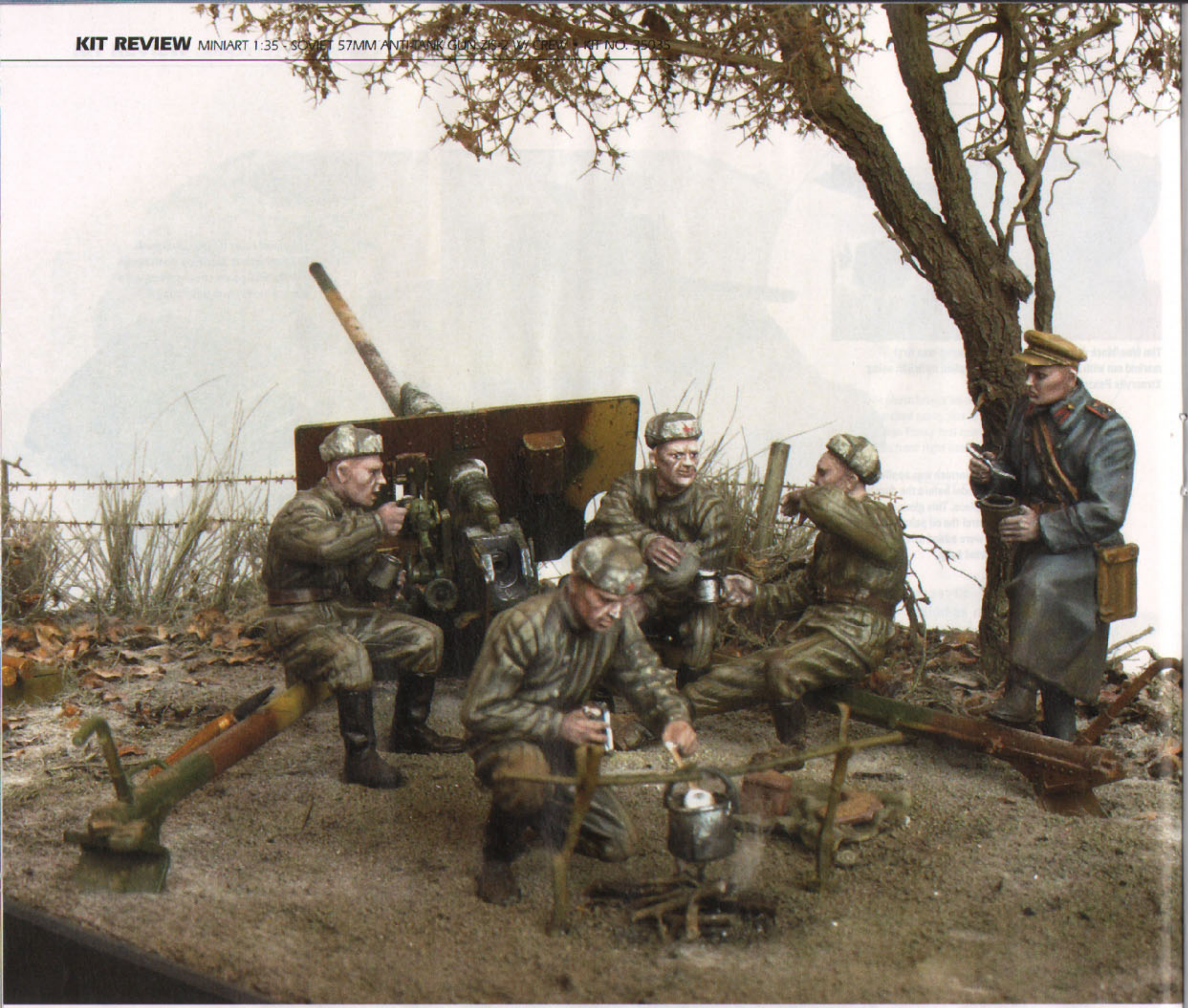
Xtracolor
XA1800 Panzer Grey
XA1813 British Gulf Armour Lt Stone
XDBB Base Coat
XAIFF Matt Varnish
Mig Productions Pigments
Gulf War Sand P037, Light Dust P027
Oil Paints Abteilung 502
Buff 035, Wash Brown 080

✓ Great tooling, easy to assemble.
✗ Some fit issues.

Available from

All good model shops Worldwide.

Rating ●●●●●●●●◐○



ALFRESCO BREAKFAST

Glenn Bowen makes full use of Miniart's ZIS-2 57mm anti tank gun and crew set by incorporating them into this chilly morning scene.

In 1940 V.G.Grabin was given the task to design a powerful anti-tank gun and in early 1941 the 57mm Zis-2 went into production. Production started on the 1st of June 1941 and by the time production ceased in 1949 some 13339 guns had been manufactured. A lot of these guns saw action at the battle of Kursk and by the end of WWII was named one of the best anti-tank guns of the war.

THE BUILD

The first part of the build starts with the construction of the gun's trail legs, which are pretty straightforward. Each leg is made of two halves; once these are glued together you are left with a bit of sanding to do, to get rid of the nasty seam that is left down either side. It was at this point that I noticed that there are no identification numbers on the sprues, only on a layout of the sprues on the instructions. This means you waste a lot of time constantly rechecking the sprue layout to identify the exact part, which becomes even worse when trying to locate the smaller parts.

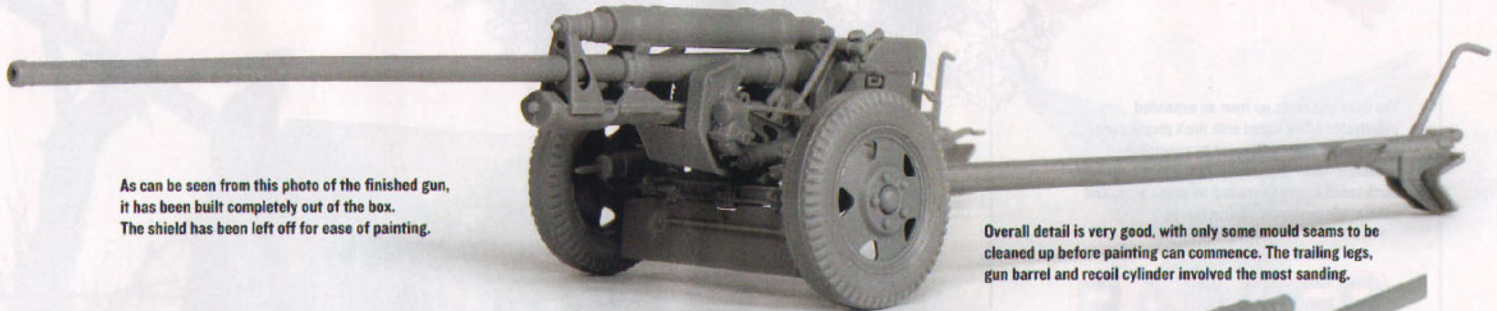
Let's get back to the build. To the side of the legs were added some barrel-cleaning rods, which are very fine indeed. To the end of each leg was fitted a locking handle that can be either fixed in position for firing or being transported.

BARREL BUILDING

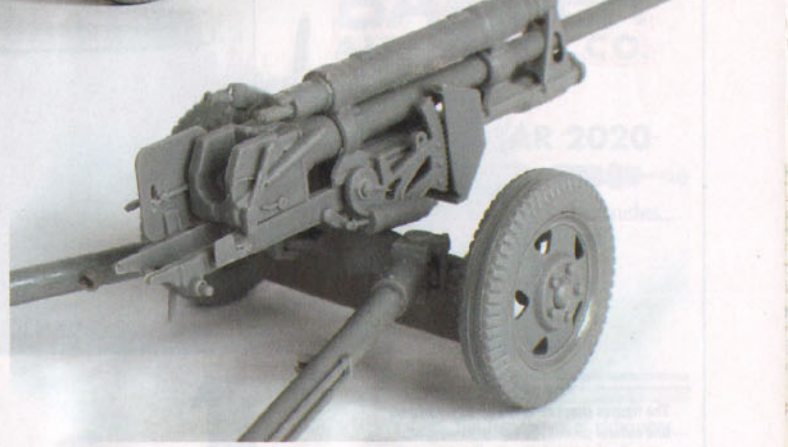
Next we move onto the construction of the gun barrel. This goes together the same way as the legs did, in two halves. Again one is left with a nasty seam down either side, which requires filling and sanding. Apart from this little hiccup the rest of the gun's fixtures went on without any problem. While the gun was drying the wheels could be assembled. Each wheel is made up from six pieces, two side walls, hub and three inner pieces that make up the tyres tread pattern, this is similar to the way Dragon produce their wheels for the 88mm Flak guns and PaK 40 anti-tank. With the barrel now sanded, the guns shield could be added. This turned out to be a bit fiddle because the shield support arms have to be lined up correctly; if they are not it all looks lop-sided. With the shields in place this sleek looking gun was now ready to add a splash of colour.

PAINTING

As I had decided to do a camouflage paint scheme on the gun I kept the gun as four sub-assemblies to make painting easier. These were the gun and shield, tail legs and the two wheels.



As can be seen from this photo of the finished gun, it has been built completely out of the box. The shield has been left off for ease of painting.



Overall detail is very good, with only some mould seams to be cleaned up before painting can commence. The trailing legs, gun barrel and recoil cylinder involved the most sanding.

I usually spray my models using Tamiya acrylic paints and this one was no different.

First of all the entire model received a base coat of XF-27 Black Green. Once this had dried, (which does not take long) I gave it a light misting over with XF-65 Field Grey. This light misting allowed the Black Green colour to show through and act as a shadow and also gave us our typical Soviet armour colour. Now it was time to add the camouflage colours. Again using Tamiya acrylics I hand painted the Sand Yellow and Red Brown on.

This was mapped out using the colour plate in the instructions as a reference to follow. I could have used masking tape but as this is only a small subject I decided to do it free hand plus it saved a lot of time. It was also hand painted to give that nice hard edge pattern that I was after and not a soft edged one. With all this done the pieces received a blast of Johnson's Floor Polish to protect the paintwork from the weathering process, which was to follow. The next evening I applied a thin wash of Vandyke Brown oil paint. This was used to unify the colours a bit more. As this was drying I took some more of the same mix and 'pin washed' it around all of the details such as the screw heads and bolt heads. Following this I added rust streaks and paint chips. These were all done using mixes from oil paint and the Humbrol enamels.

The whole thing was then finished off with a dusting of Mig Productions weathering pigments.

THE FIGURES

What I really liked about this model the first time that I saw it were the figures.

They all seemed to have a very natural look and all seemed to be interacting with each other. One could use these figures anywhere, on a battlefield like here or having a rest next to a Gaz truck on a country lane. The possibilities are endless. The only change that I made was to the officer and I replaced his head for one that was wearing a cap. This was taken from the same company's Soviet Tankers Field Briefing set. They were painted entirely with Humbrol enamel paints apart from the flesh areas, which were completed using Vallejo Model Color acrylics.

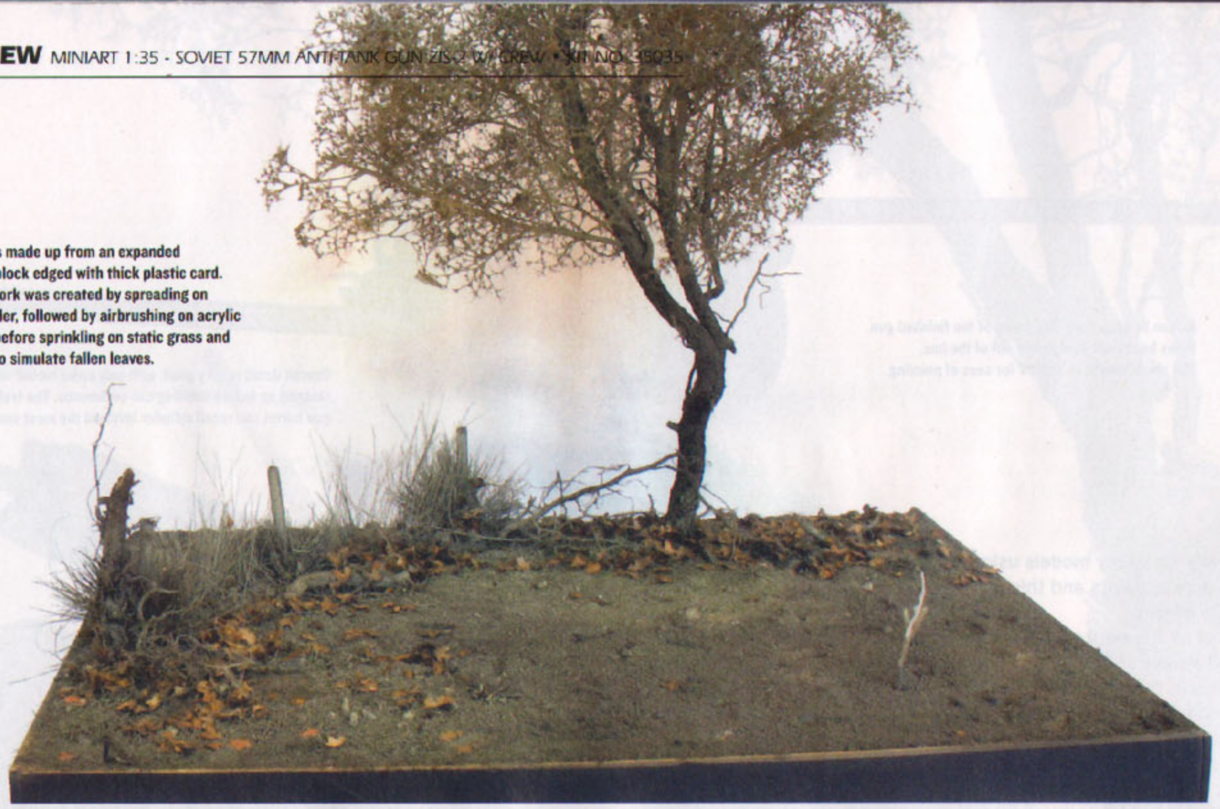
THE DIORAMA

It's always good to have a picture in mind of what you want to do with your model. I always start off by scribbling this picture out onto a piece of paper. With the basic idea in place I start to move things around until I come up with a composition that I am happy with. With the idea sorted it was time to put it into place. First the tree was made up from a dead tree root found in the garden and ▶

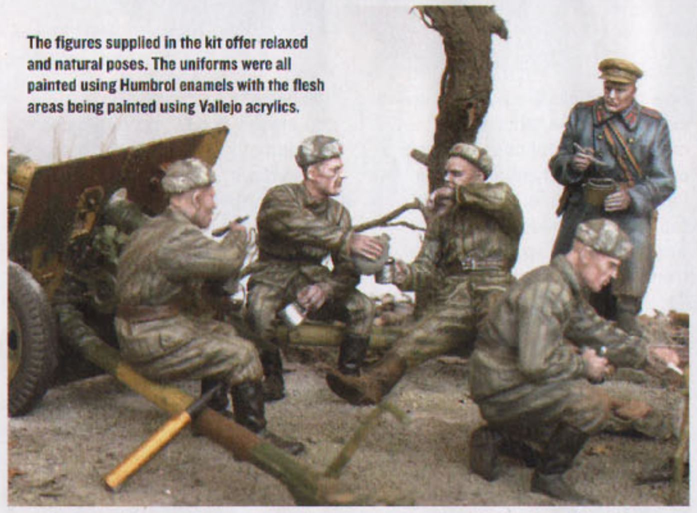
With the gun shield in place, the gun loses its very sleek look when compared to the photo of the unpainted gun from the same angle.

The camouflage pattern was applied by brush painting Tamiya Dark Yellow and Red Brown acrylics over a base coat of Field Grey, which had been airbrushed on.

Small scratches and chips have been added using a combination of oil paints and Humbrol enamels, these have been mixed to match the Tamiya acrylics.



The base was made up from an expanded polystyrene block edged with thick plastic card. The groundwork was created by spreading on household filler, followed by airbrushing on acrylic earth tones before sprinkling on static grass and birch seeds to simulate fallen leaves.



The figures supplied in the kit offer relaxed and natural poses. The uniforms were all painted using Humbrol enamels with the flesh areas being painted using Vallejo acrylics.

The smoke for the camp fire was created using some strands of cotton from a Q-Tip (cotton bud).

◀ sea foam, which was super glued into some pre-drilled holes. Next the base was built-up using a thick piece of expanded polystyrene edged with some thick plasticard. Once this had dried a layer of household filler was spread across the top for the terrain. Then the fence and long grass were put into position and finally the tree. On the other side of the fence I wanted a farmers field, so to represent this I simulated a ploughed field. This was easily achieved by simply adding some ruts into the filler. The entire base was then covered in fine sand and left to harden over night. Before it did though I lightly pressed some footprints into the earth and also placed the gun into position so that it had a natural sit on the base and did not look as if it was floating. After 24 hours I gave the base a heavy coat of hairspray and then applied static grass to certain areas. Next the whole thing was airbrushed with various earth coloured paints, followed by washes and some light dry-brushing.

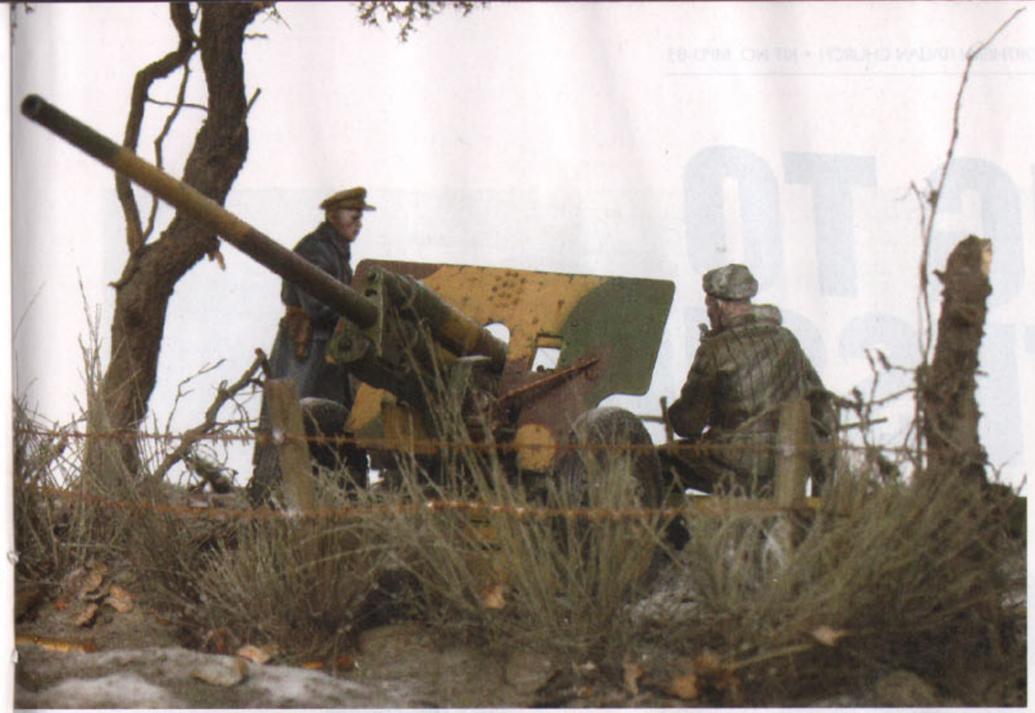
Then I added some birch tree seeds to represent fallen leaves. These were also held in place with hairspray.

FINAL DETAILS

Gluing some tiny twigs together then giving them a light dusting of Mig Productions Black Smoke pigment made up the cooking fire. The rising smoke was simply made from some fine strands from a cotton bud. It was then all finished off with a light coating of Cast-a-Snow to represent a layer of early morning frost. This was also carried onto the gun as well.

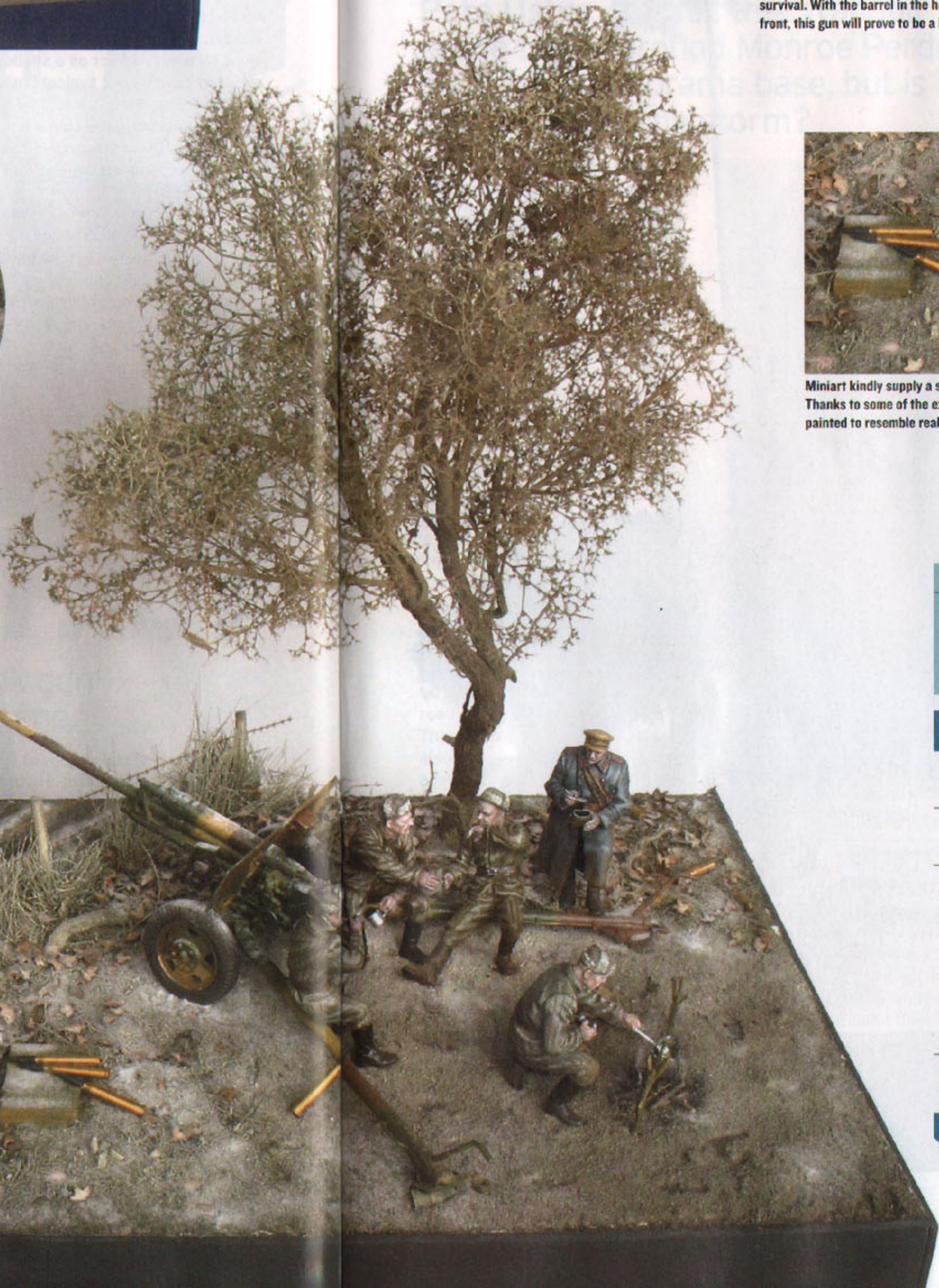
CONCLUSION

This was a nice, small and simple vignette to do. With a wonderful kit that looks great straight out of the box, all that is needed is a little imagination. I must say thank you to the Editor for supplying the review kit, which I liked so much that I went out and purchased another! I can't recommend this kit enough. ■



This low angle shot shows why a low silhouette is crucial to an anti-tank gun's survival. With the barrel in the horizontal position and some foliage covering the front, this gun will prove to be a lethal foe to any unsuspecting panzer.

Miniart kindly supply a selection of ammunition and boxes with the kit. Thanks to some of the excellent metallic paints available, these can be painted to resemble real brass very convincingly.



Acknowledgements

Thank you to Creative Models for supplying the review sample. (www.creativemodels.co.uk)

Modelspec

Miniart 1:35 Soviet 57mm Anti-tank gun ZIS-2 w/Crew — Kit No. 35035

Materials

Cast-a-Snow (http://cammett.websds.net)

Paints used

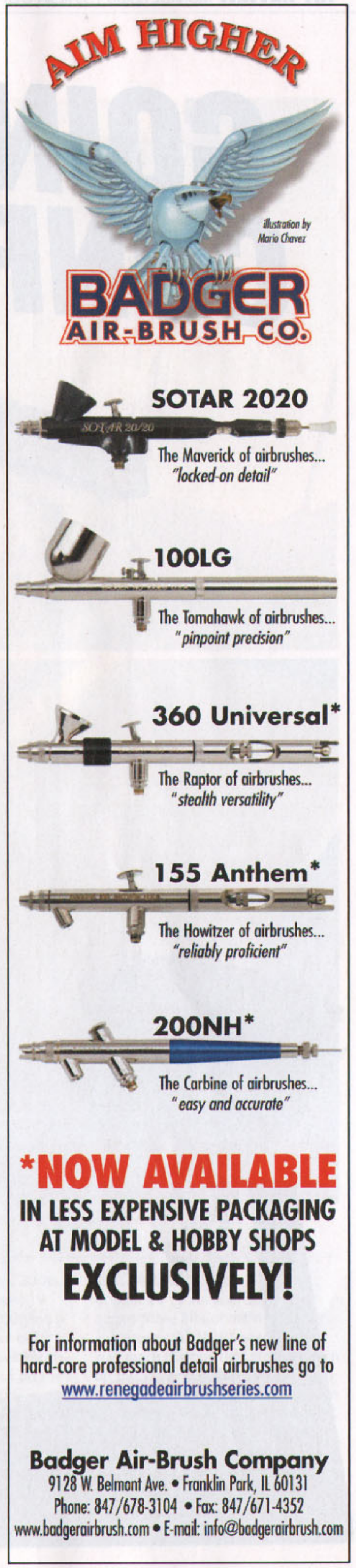
XF-65 Field Grey, XF-27 Black Green
XF-60 Dark Yellow, XF-64 Red Brown
Vandyke Brown oil paint
Mig Productions pigment Black Smoke

☑ Straightforward to assemble, nicely detailed
☒ Some minor mould seams to clean up.

Available from

All good model shops Worldwide.

Rating ●●●●●●●●●◐



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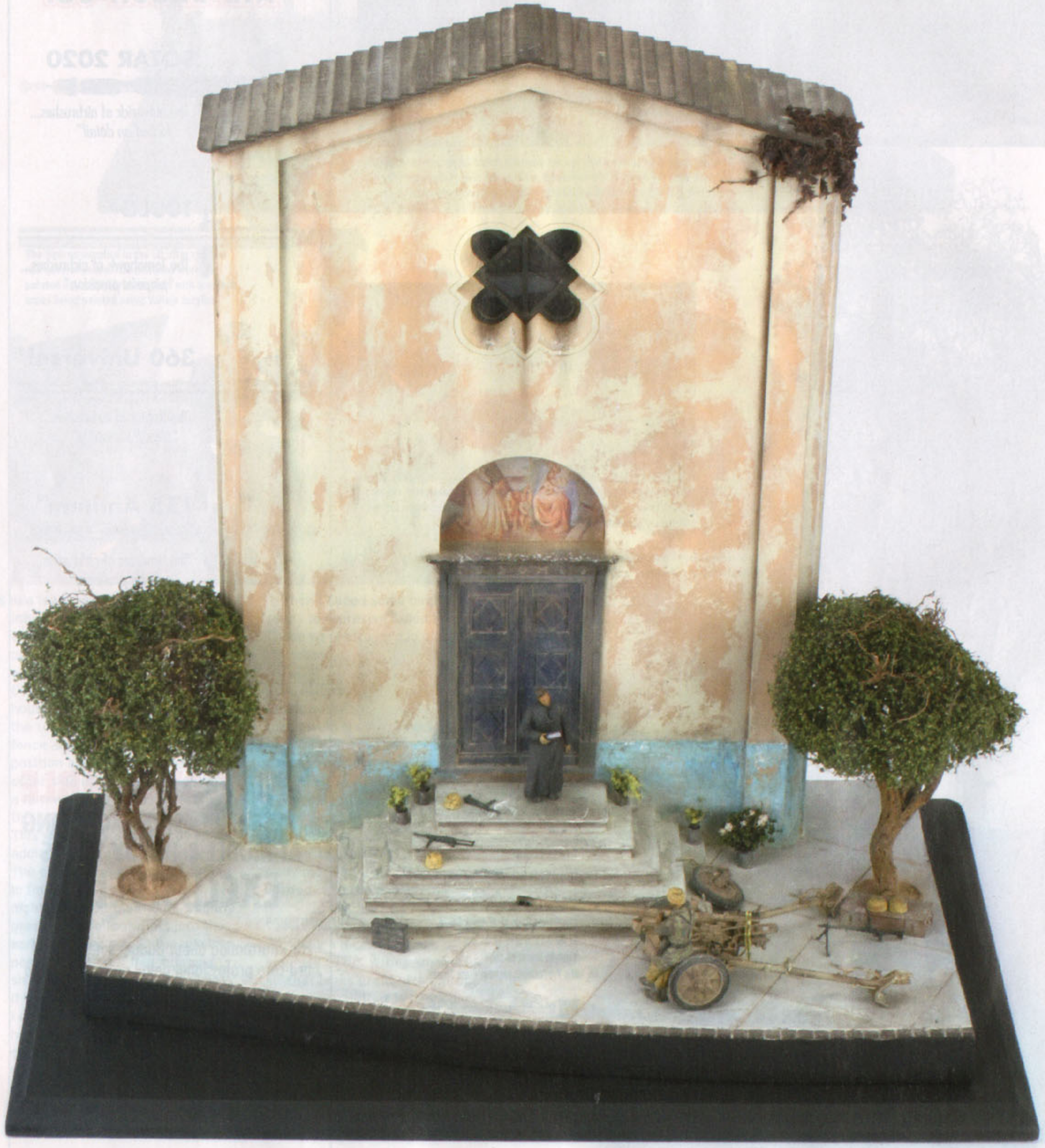
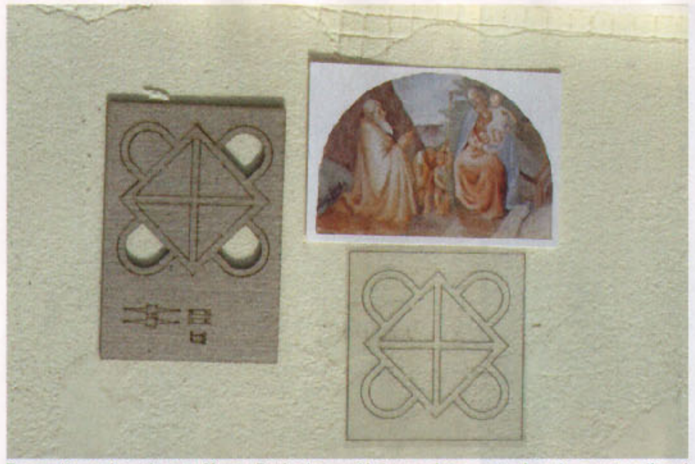
GOING TO CONFESSION





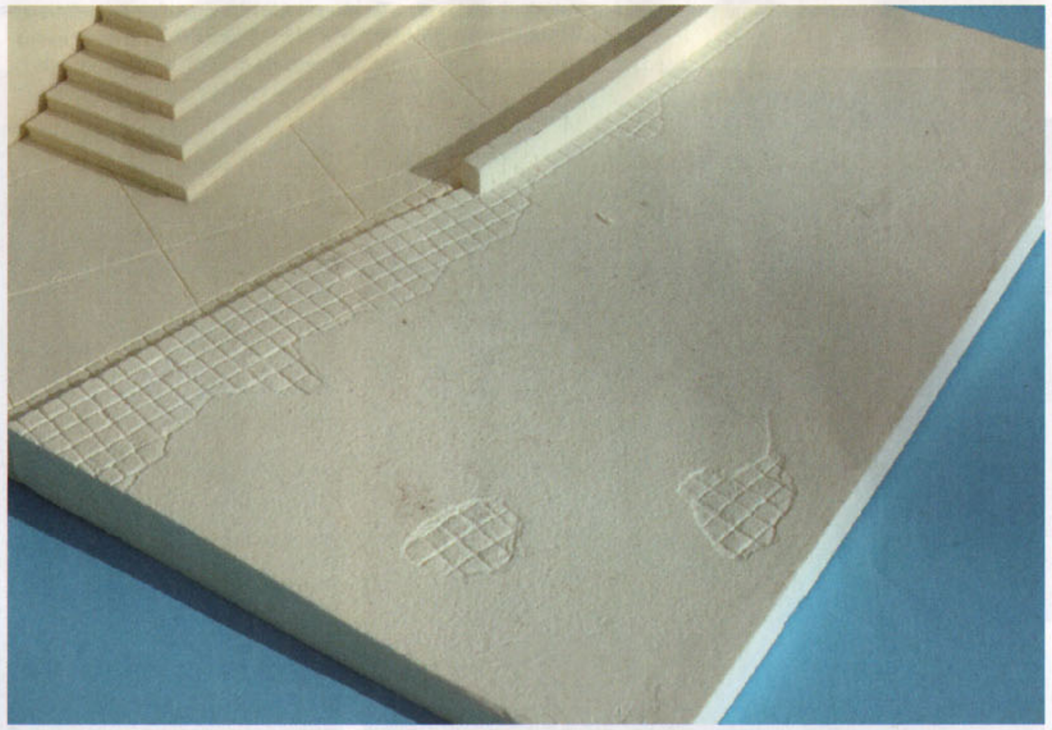
To compliment the resin parts Monroe Perdu also provided some clear acetate sheet, laser-cut cardboard forming the window frame, door handles and hinges and a colour photocopy of a biblical happening, designed to be mounted above the doorway.

Pete Usher creates this 'tranquil' scene based around Monroe Perdu's church front diorama base, but is it the lull before the storm?

If you're looking for a large stunning backdrop to a vehicle that needs a home, then look no further, this is it. A classic Northern Italian church-front with steps, pavement and road section. The full base is 12" x 12" (30cm x 30cm) and the church front stands an impressive 12" high!

IN THE BOX

The resin cast parts as with all Monroe Perdu's Studio kits are fantastic with the detail verging on perfection. This diorama base consists of just four resin parts starting with the church front, it is cast in one item including the front doors, porch and roof, which has a wonderful shiplap wood grain effect. Some well worn looking marble steps lead down to large flagstones and onto a section of road, which looks to have been tarmac'd with the original cobbled road showing through in places. This completes the resin parts, also included though is some clear acetate sheet to act as glass, some laser-cut cardboard forming the window frame, door handles and hinges and finally a printed colour sheet of paper depicting a biblical happening, which is designed to be mounted above the doorway. To help with painting, weathering and I guess also as reference proof some photos of the actual church in Italy, near Lake Como are included, I think this is a great idea that I wish some other companies would adopt.



As can be seen from this close-up of the road section, the detail is very good and only requires some careful painting and weathering to bring out the full potential of the flawless casting.

PAINTING

As with all my models a good covering with a Halford's aerosol based plastic primer is a must and once this had been allowed to dry fully the real painting could commence. I had to imagine a building in need of a lick of paint and some tender loving care instead of a pristine white painted church front, which I think would look equally as striking, but as I do enjoy the weathering side of modelling, I went for the worn look.

To achieve the flaking paint effect I used the technique that Phil Stutcinkcas described and used back in issue 10 on his 2006 Euro Militaire winning Panzer IV, which basically involves spraying a base colour onto the model before coating the surface with hairspray. The next step is to airbrush on the top colour, then shortly after wet the surface with warm water and with the help of various brushes, start scrubbing the top coat off as desired. This effect looks amazing when done right and is one that is best to practice on an old scrap model first!

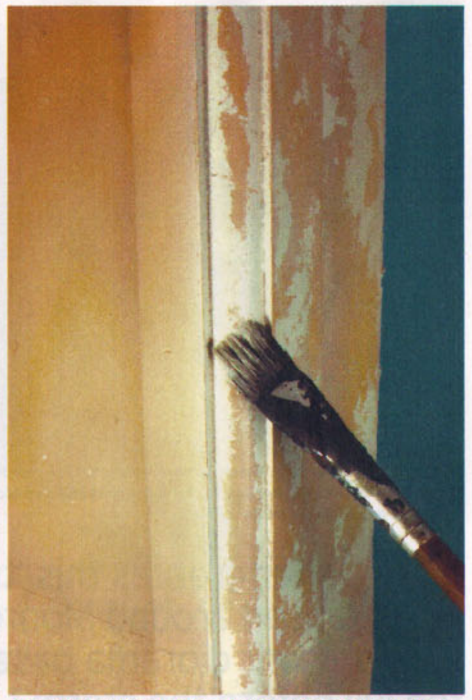
CONSTRUCTION

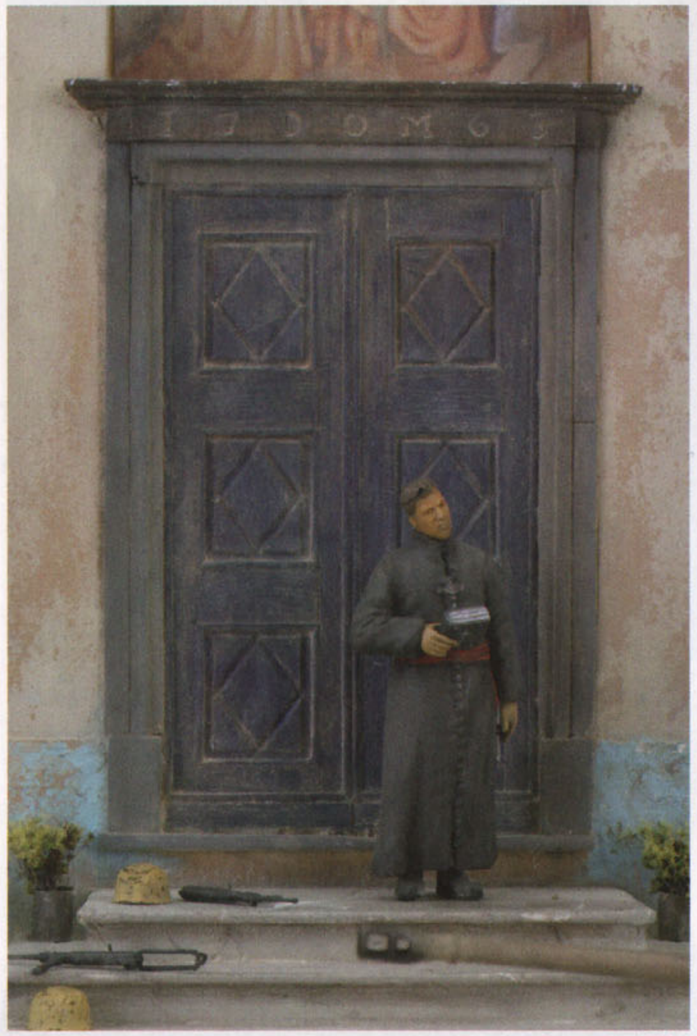
Compared to building an AFV, gluing three bits of resin together is a breeze, all that I needed to do was mark the position of the church on the base with a pencil so I could align it perfectly first attempt when super-gluing it into position. Once in place I did notice a gap running around the base of the church, but thankfully as the lower section of the church features a rough stucco effect, filling and blending with a Milliput was easy to do. ▶

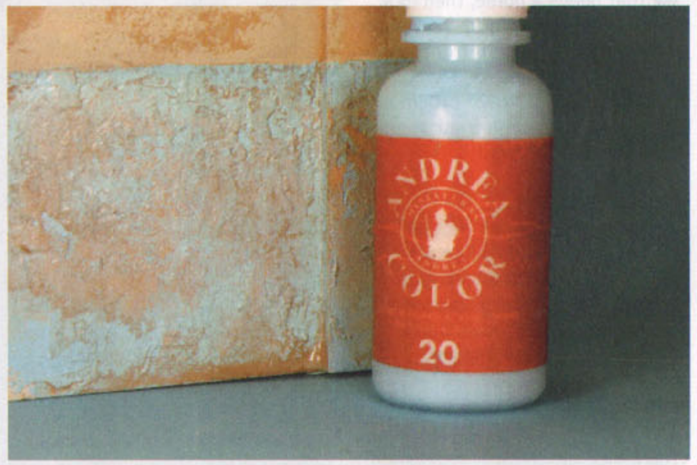
Step one was the base layer - in this case I used Vallejo Modelcolor Iraqi Sand (70819), which was sprayed over the whole church front, then left to dry for a few hours.

Cheap hairspray was then sprayed over all Iraqi Sand painted areas - this acts to protect the base layer

A mix of Vallejo Modelair Dark Yellow 71025 and White 71001 was mixed in the air brush cup in small quantities in no particular ratio to help with the random effect. The mix can now be sprayed on to the church, working in small areas so the paint does not fully cure.


Take a damp medium old flat brush and gently scrub away at the top layer of paint. As you can see it comes loose on the hair spray layer leaving very random worn looking paint - just what I was looking for.


The door was painted Vallejo Chocolate Brown, once this was dry Mig Productions European Dust P028 and Beach Sand P030 were mixed together then worked in to the nooks and crannies. The excess was then wiped off with a damp finger. This same technique was also used on the roof.


The base sections of the church were painted in Andrea Miniatures Navy Grey (No.20) which is actually a very pale blue/grey. The worn effect was achieved using the hairspray technique on the rest of the building.

Bird lime (Yes that's the correct term, for bird poo!)
For a touch of realism I thought I would add a little 'bird lime' to the porch and window. A small amount of black and white paint was dabbed on using an old toothbrush. (don't forget to wash it out first before giving it back to your wife!)

Putting the airbrush to one side for a moment, I painted the flagstones at the front of the church using Vallejo Sky Grey. Before it had chance to dry fully, Vallejo White thinned with water was washed over the tops of the stones making white paint pools in the lower recesses giving a nice faded look. Once this was dry, Mig pigments Industrial City Dirt P038 was worked into the joints to separate and shade them, then some more of the 'Med' dust I used for the roof was dusted over the whole pavement. The same principals were used on the steps, only adding some dark grey flecks to recreate marble at the painting stage.

To ensure the building was positioned perfectly when glued in place, a pencil was used to trace the edge. This will make lining the church up with the base easier and less messy when the glue is applied to the bottom edge of the building. It will save all those little final adjustments, which can end up smearing glue over the finished groundwork.

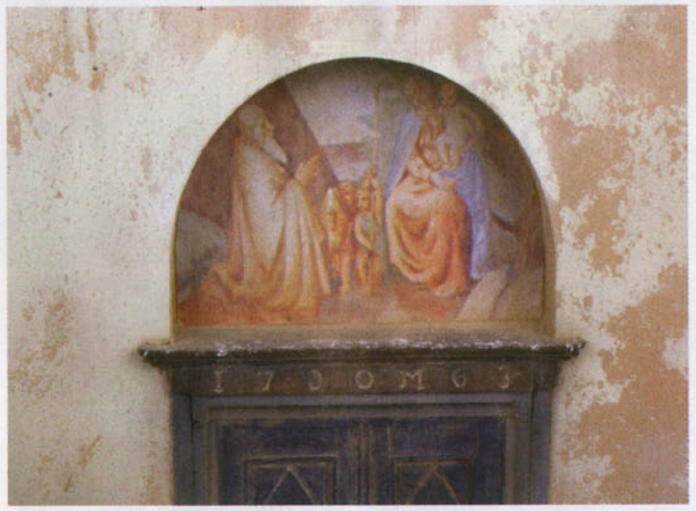
◀ FIGURES & PAK

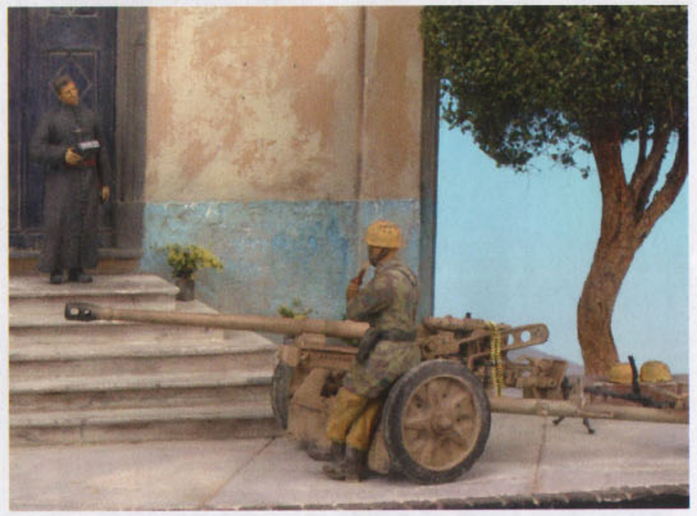
As this review is mainly about the church I didn't want to stray too far and clutter the base. That's why I went for a simple option and only added small items to the scene as I didn't want to just focus on the building and groundwork. Dragon's 5cm Pak 38 was the ideal choice in my mind as it tied in perfectly with the scene I had in mind. The Dragon Pak 38 is a nice kit, though I did think that some of the detail was a little heavy and if you're going to put the front armoured shield on, an etched brass replacement is a must. There is a 4-man crew included in various poses around the gun, but none were suitable for my needs. The kit figures are not the best I've seen either, but the gun on its own is well worth a look.

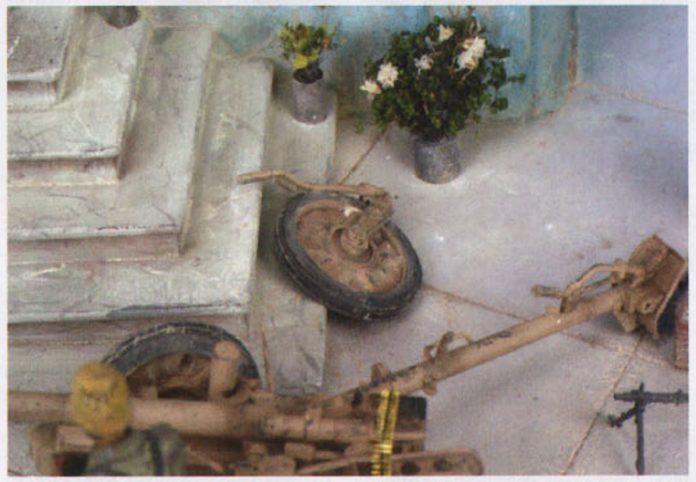
The German paratrooper I have chosen for the scene was taken from Dragon's Gen 2 'Fallschirmjager with 8cm Mortar' Kit No.6373. As with all the Gen 2 figures they are very well detailed, if not a little fiddly to assemble due to the large number of parts that tend to make up these figures. Four figures are included in the box, three smoking in relaxed poses and one in the process of swabbing the mortar tube out. I chose the Para looking chilled out with a pipe but opted to swap the kit head for a resin replacement from Hornet Models. The Priest came from MK35 No. F106 and again his head was swapped with a Hornet item.

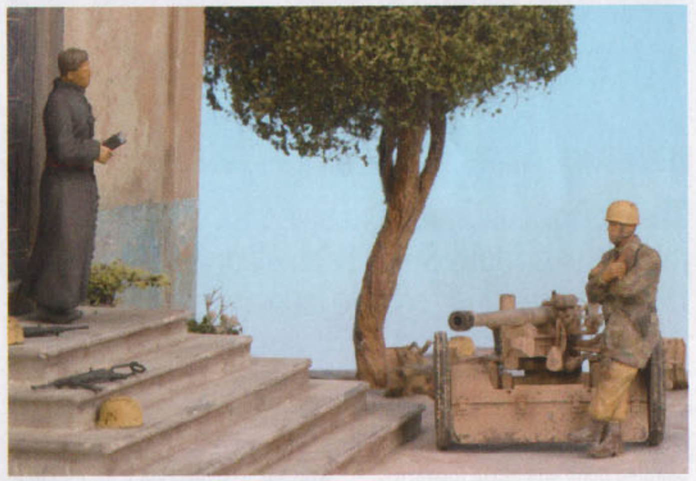
CONCLUSION

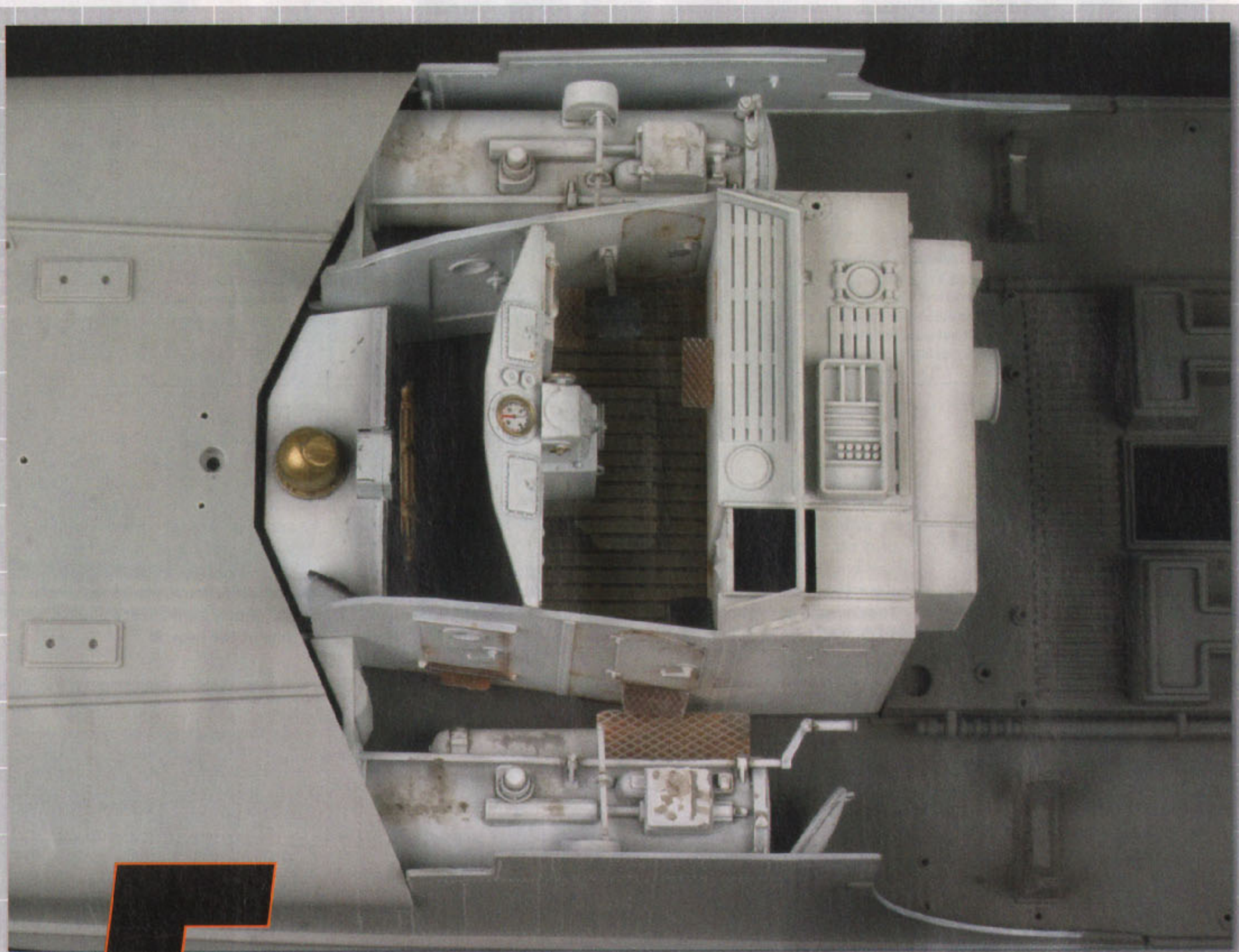
A beautiful kit of a beautiful building and it was a refreshing change to build an 'intact' building rather than the usual ravaged and half destroyed ones normally gracing dioramas. If you fancy doing a building dio, then this superb resin church base is extremely high quality and is the one of the best. ■











E THAT'S A BIG BOAT ED

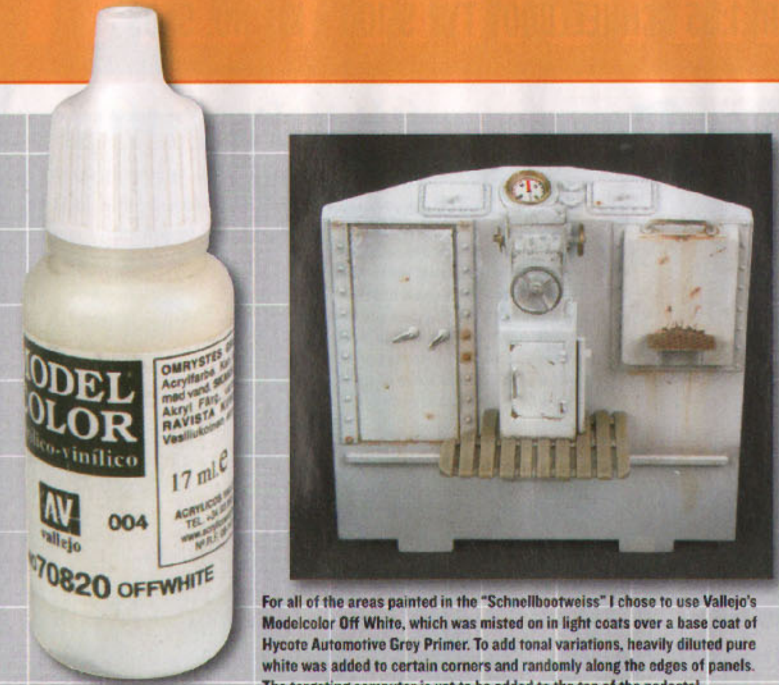
Part 3

The Editor continues the epic task of building, correcting and super-detailing the enormous S-100 Schnellboot. This month painting and detailing the bridge, props and torpedo launchers.

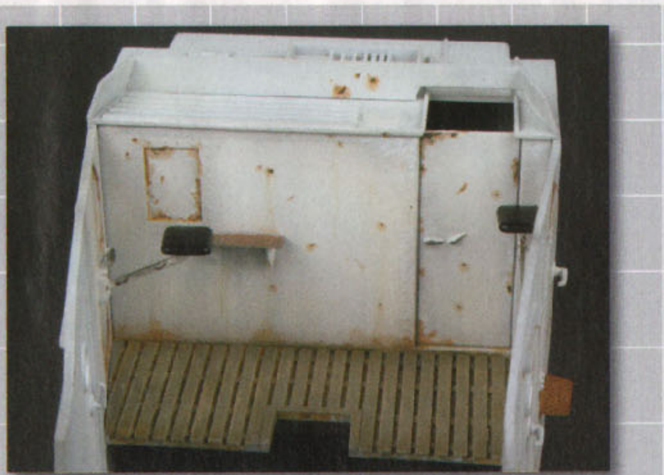
Thankfully this month has seen a bit more progress than last and I have actually managed to get some painting done and move forward with the assembly. With such a large model one of the problems I have found is at which point do you stop building and start painting? It is all too easy to get carried away with the assembly only to find it is virtually impossible to get access to some parts to give them a coat of paint, let alone detail paint or weather.

This issue the bridge, wheelhouse and torpedo launchers are finished ready for installation and on a model of this size each is an involved project on its own.

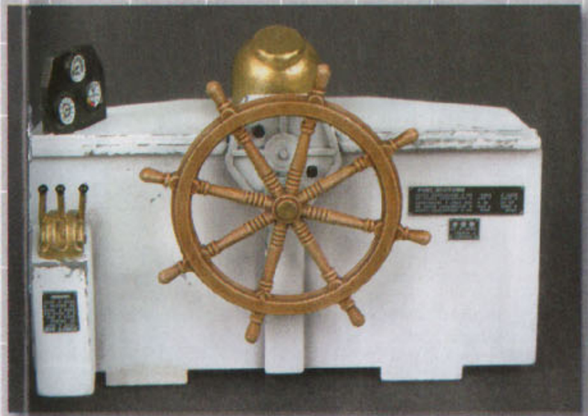
Due to space limitations, I will ramble on no more and let the photos and captions cover what I have accomplished this month. ■



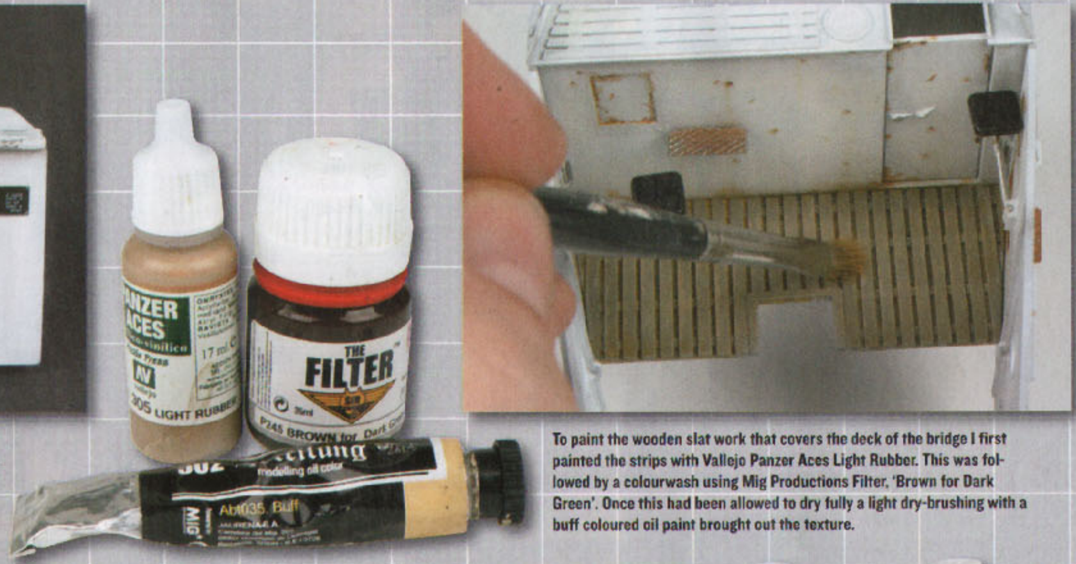
For all of the areas painted in the "Schnellbootweiss" I chose to use Vallejo's Modelcolor Off White, which was misted on in light coats over a base coat of Hycote Automotive Grey Primer. To add tonal variations, heavily diluted pure white was added to certain corners and randomly along the edges of panels. The targeting computer is yet to be added to the top of the pedestal.



I have added a fair amount of rust to the sections of the bridge, which have been made up from steel armour plate. Even though most of the published photos of the S-Boats show them in good condition, I felt that I wanted to portray a boat that has been operating in the unforgiving North or Baltic seas, which would soon have the paintwork looking decidedly second hand

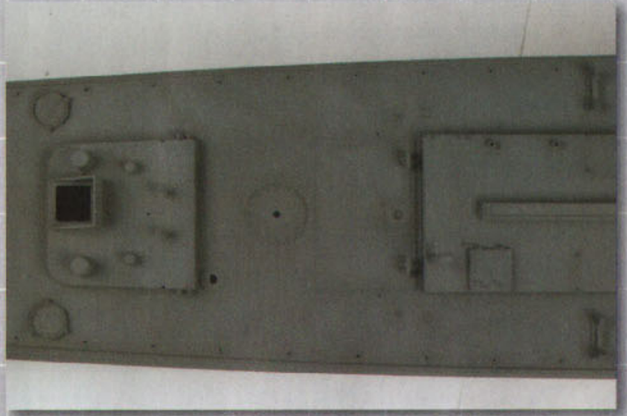


As usual I get carried away painting details and area that won't be seen on the finished model, and the wheelhouse is no exception. As I chose to leave the armoured shutters up on the 'Skullcap', none of this work will be visible. Oh well, at least I had fun testing out techniques for painting the wheel!



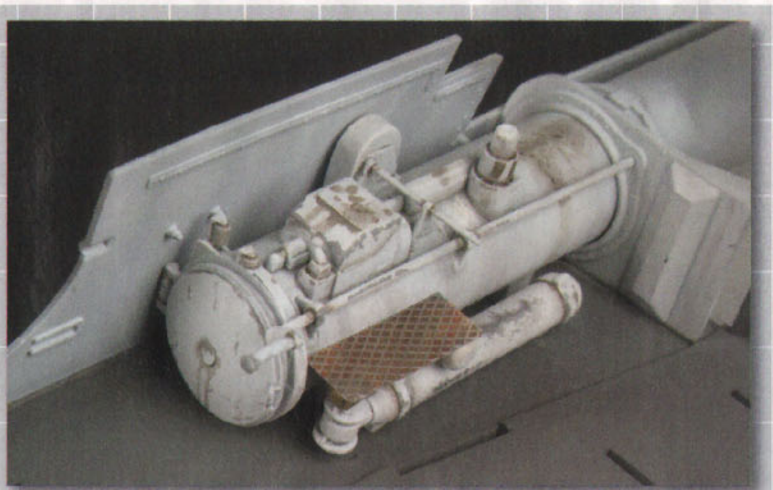
To paint the wooden slat work that covers the deck of the bridge I first painted the strips with Vallejo Panzer Aces Light Rubber. This was followed by a colourwash using Mig Productions Filter, 'Brown for Dark Green'. Once this had been allowed to dry fully a light dry-brushing with a buff coloured oil paint brought out the texture.

The deck sections were painted next prior to fitting the bridge and torpedo launchers. To do this, I first sprayed the entire deck with Vallejo Dark Blue/Grey (867), which was thinned with about 50% water and the pressure on my compressor set at about 30psi.
The Light Sea Grey was added to the base Dark Blue Grey to mist over certain sections once the shading colours had been applied.



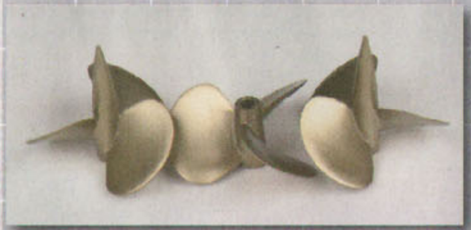
Here we can see the areas, which have been misted over with both, the shading colours mixed from Track Primer and Dark Rubber and the base colour with the Light Sea Grey added. These colours will be toned down once the filters/colourwashes and detail painting has been applied later.

Tech Guide - ITALERI 1:35 SCHNELLBOOT TYP S-100 • KIT NO. 5603



As with the bridge I have deliberately exaggerated the weathering and wear and tear on the torpedo launcher housings because once the bridge and 'Skullcap' are in place these parts will be in deep shadow, so subtle weathering would be lost. I found the best colour for adding wear and chipping was a light grey, this added enough interest without contrasting too much with the white. The oil leaks are a mix of dark brown oil paint and Humbrol Gloss Cote thinned with white spirit.

GOLD
Hawkeye's
TALON SERIES
ACRYLIC NMF PAINT



After sharpening all the edges of the prop blades I primed them using more Hycote Grey primer before a final inspection to make sure there were no unsightly sanding marks. Once happy the props were painted using the amazing Hawkeye's Talon Series Acrylic Gold paint. This paint offer a superbly realistic metallic finish. One point to note that when applying these ultra thin paints, the pressure has to be kept very low, around 10psi and use only light passes and allow the paint to dry before adding the next coat, otherwise the paint will bleed along the edges etc.

To add further interest to the props I added Games Workshops Burnished Gold to the tips of the blades using a piece of fine textured foam.

17 ml.e
VERDIGRIS GLAZE
COLORI ACRILICI
LIFECOLOR
LC 39
FS 34127
net 22 ml

Some of that familiar blue/green verdigris oxidisation was added to the base of each blade using a thinned mix of Vallejo Verdigris Glaze and Lifecolor Matt Artillery Green. This mix was first stippled then washed along the base of the blades and before it was allowed to dry fully I rubbed the paint lightly with my finger, which left a pleasing soft effect.

With the bronze parts of the propellers painted, the next step is to paint the ferrous metal conical fairings, which are fitted to the two outboard props. Here we can see they have been base coated in Vallejo's Track Primer.

NEXT TIME...

We will get the foredeck in place and start adding the missing detail from this area. We will also look at the corrected and detailed skullcap that Cammett have just announced, which will incorporate all the details I added to mine and more. This new part will be produced in resin and will offer an alternative solution to the incorrectly detailed Italeri part.

We will also start detailing and painting the weapons.

THE FINISHING TOUCH

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Book Reviews

British Armour
in North-West Europe
Volume 1. Normandy to Arnhem

BRITISH ARMOUR IN NORTH WEST EUROPE
VOL.1 NORMANDY TO ARNHEM

DENNIS OLIVER • CONCORD PUBLICATIONS

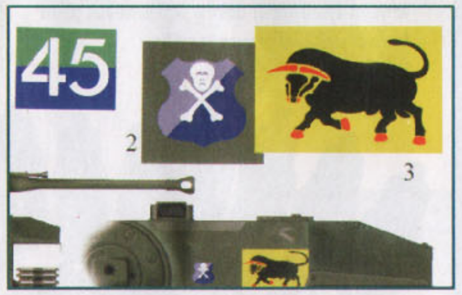
I have never hidden my bias toward WWII Allied vehicles especially British stuff, so it was a nice surprise to receive the latest Concord publication via Justin at Book World Wholesales. Covering, as the title states British Armour from Normandy to Arnhem, Dennis Oliver has done a great job of compiling a comprehensive mix of photos covering this vitally important four-month period of 1944.

The introduction I found to be really informative as it offers a list of the units involved in this campaign and some interesting facts about the vehicles they were equipped with. I must say that many of the photos included I have seen elsewhere, even in other concord titles. Having said that, there are still some new pictures to me including a 'hull down' Crusader AA mounting the triple Oerlikon and the SOD (Sawn Off Daimler) armoured car, which has its turret and front mudguards removed and looks really cool. Although many of the photos will be familiar to anyone who is a fan of Allied armour and an avid collector of reference books. The one thing Dennis does offer the previous British armour titles from Concord is the inclusion of very informative captions for the photos as well as his own colour illustrations, which I also think are amongst the best to accompany any of the recent Concord releases.

Recommended for die-hard fans of British armour.

Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk

The Editor



ON DISPLAY .1

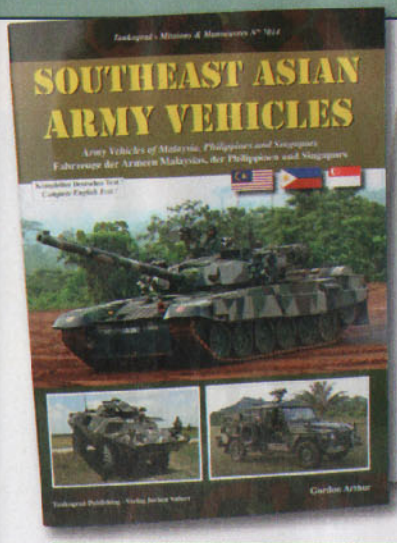
ON DISPLAY VOL 1
POST WAR ARMOUR

CANFORA PUBLISHING • ISBN 978-91-976773-2-5

When I first saw this book advertised I thought that it would be something a little different to the norm as the concentration of modelling subjects is as the title suggests, Modern Armour, an often overlooked and under represented area of our hobby. The subject matter contained within the 97 full colour pages are varied, as are the artists/modellers whose work adorned the volume. Inside of the stiff card covers (just smaller than A4) the glossy pages are a mix of personal styles and herein I believe lies a problem. Some of the models are almost full rebuilds and others are standard kits with lots of add-on detail sets. There is no real direction with the book as far as a reference guide or 'how to' techniques are concerned but this is merely a volume of individuals work. The photography throughout is of a good high quality and one thing I noticed was that some of the models had useful build photos whereas others didn't! Unfortunately there is no continuity between chapters as some of the photographs are taken on different backgrounds, which all leads me to think this was a slightly amateur publication needing some of the rough edges ironed out. Don't get me wrong I liked the Abraham's diorama especially and the standard of most of the work is top notch, it's just that I believe there is a great missed opportunity for the publishers to do more build techniques and less gallery style chapters. As I bought this book out of my own wallet to go with the previous volumes of Nordic Edge, I can say that it has filled a gap on the shelf and will probably stay there for some time before I browse it for nothing more than a look and, maybe, some inspiration? As with Nordic Edge some of the models I have previously seen on the Internet and unfortunately this medium does spoil the surprises of some of the builds. Just for the record the chapters in order are as follows; 1. M1A1 Abrams (this for me was the show piece of the book), 2. Stryker ICV 3, Leopard 2A5, 4. T-72, 5. Merkava 4, 6. TPz1 A6 Fuchs, 7. M51 ARV, 8. FV432 Bulldog MK.3s, 9 .PT 76 all are depicted in some form of small diorama with one exception and most are presented with figures of differing standards. The asking price alone puts this within the reach of most modellers and equates to roughly the same as about 4 magazines, as a result I believe that it is one of those books that will be an impulse buy rather than a must have. Having read the volume cover to cover I found some of the ideas useful but lost amongst the rest of the text, this resulted in me having to re-read the sentences to fully understand what was being written about. The final analysis is that the publisher has made a credible effort but so much potential has been lost.

Available from www.historexagents.com

John Wilkes



TANKOGRAD – MISSIONS & MANOEUVRES NO. 7014
SOUTHEAST ASIA ARMY VEHICLES

This interesting edition covers the armies of Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore and offers a fascinating insight to the diverse selection of vehicles these countries have equipped their armed forces with. Many are obviously of U.S. origin but what make them interesting are the local modifications and colour schemes they sport. There is certainly some interesting modelling projects to be had from the superb large format photos this latest edition of Missions and Manoeuvres offers.

Whilst reading the background introductions to each of the countries,

I couldn't help raising a juvenile smile whilst reading about one of the terrorist groups the Philippine government has to confront on a regular basis. These are the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), well I think this group really should have googled the initials MILF before chosen their name, as anyone who has watched the American Pie movies will know MILF stands for something completely different!

That aside, this book offers some great reference material and will certainly give you some different ideas for your next build project if you have a T-72, Humvee, Land Rover or the new Hobby Boss V150 to name but a few. An unusual subject choice when compared to the usual flood of book releases on the more popular subjects, nevertheless I really enjoyed this one. Recommended.

Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk

The Editor

black star
ADVANCED
PAINTING
TECHNIQUES
RUBEN GONZALEZ

ADVANCED PAINTING TECHNIQUES

RUBEN GONZALEZ • BLACK STAR MODELLING HANDBOOK

This is a great little guidebook written to help explain as best as possible the current painting techniques used by many of the top armour modellers and certainly those that have been developed by the multi-award winning Spanish modellers such as Mig Jimenez.

This 32 page A5 sized booklet covers all the key subjects and does it in an imaginative way by using a StuG III chassis, which has been painted Panzer Grey on one half and Dunkel Gelb on the other. I think this is a great way of showing how the various techniques work on the two different colours.

There have been many DVDs, books and magazine 'special issues' published of late, all of which have offered a wealth of valuable information to help guide the viewer or reader through the complex processes used to create visually stunning and potentially show winning models. Long gone has the basic paint, colourwash and dry-brush style, which has been the accepted procedure for the last 20 years or so.

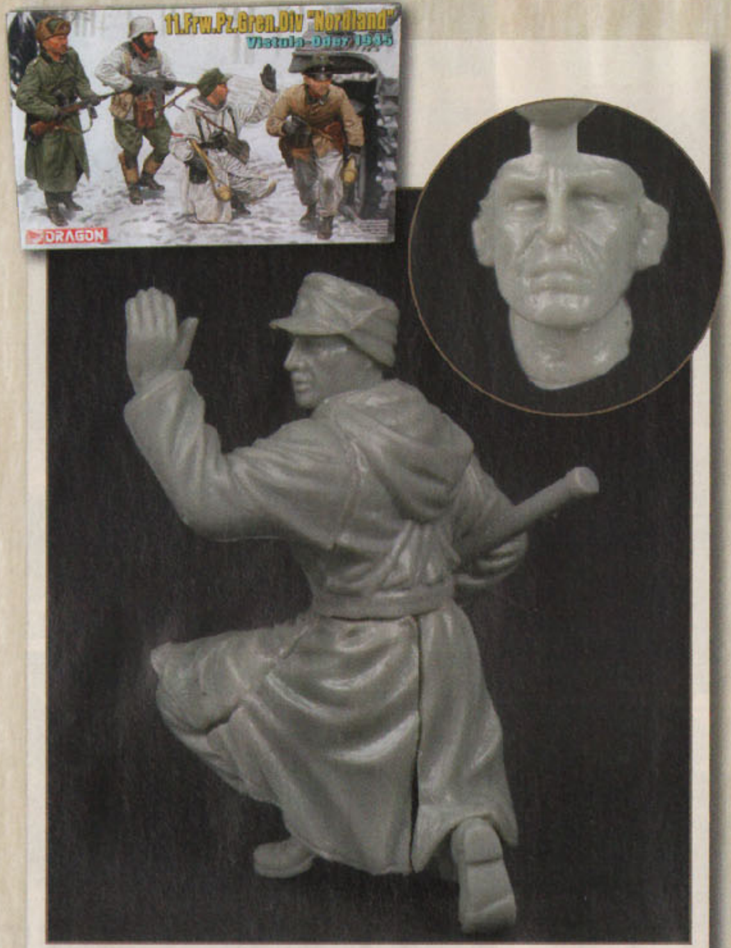
Most of these latest generation publications go into great depth about the theories and reasons why these multi-layered and often confusing washes, pin-washes, filters, chips and mapping etc, should be used. Thankfully this Advanced Painting Techniques guide does a very good job of showing in clear and simple steps how to achieve these finishes yourself without all the heavy background information.

The best way to describe this book would be as a mini version of Mig's FAQ book, as many of the techniques are the same and so are most of the painting and weathering products used. If your budget can't stretch to the FAQ book then this would make the perfect affordable substitute, costing less than £5 really would be a wise purchase.

Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk

The Editor

Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...



DRAGON

1:35 INJECTION PLASTIC FIGURES
11.FRW.PZ.GREN.DIV "NORDLAND" VISTULA-ODER 1945
ITEM NO. 6455

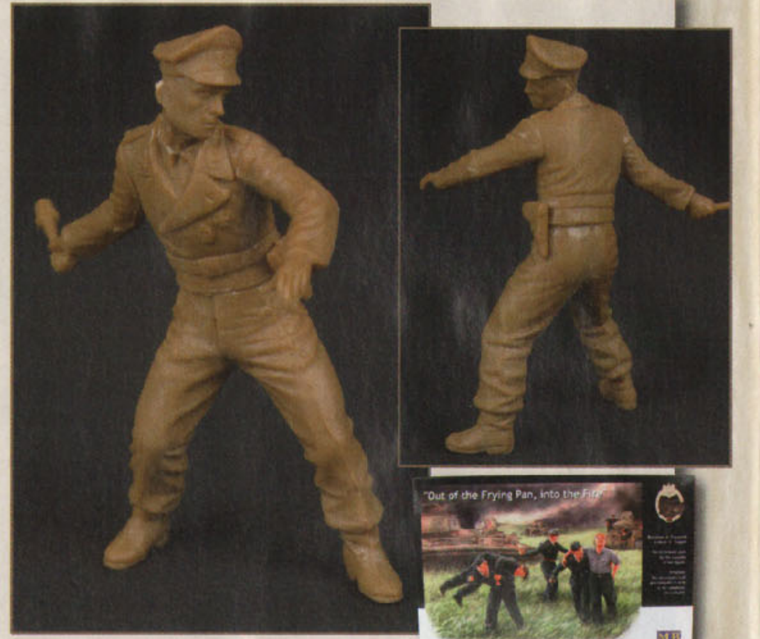
This is an interesting set of four Germans dressed in varied winter clothing, which offers the potential of being used as a self contained group as the boxtop suggests or used individually and mixed with figures from other appropriate sets. Moulded in Dragon's familiar light grey plastic, the parts are all beautifully detailed and almost as good as the more complex and expensive Gen 2 sets. The only real difference being items such as hands and collars aren't separate, so you don't get those nice hollow sleeves or realistically thin collars. That aside they do offer a couple of advantages in that they are both cheaper than the Gen 2 sets and contain a lot less parts, making them much quicker to assemble. I did however find the fit of the greatcoat on the figure I assembled for the photos to be less than perfect and would definitely require some filler along the joints.

A good mix of weapons are included, such as an MG42, MP44 and PPSH and a nice touch is that Dragon even include a set of waterslide decals for the Panzerfaust.

Another good set of figures with plenty of potential.

Available from all good model shops and we recommend trying any of the shops in our adverts.

8.5/10 The Editor



MASTER BOX LTD.

1:35 GERMAN TANK CREW, KURSK, 1943
ITEM NO. MB3536

This set contains the fleeing crew of a knocked out panzer, moulded on one sprue in the usual mustard coloured plastic we have come to identify MB figure sets by. Included is an officer throwing a grenade to cover his retreating wounded crewmen, one of which is being carried in a fireman's lift, another wounded tanker is being aided by a comrade. I can't put my finger on it but there is something that bothers me about the fireman's lift maybe the balance of the casualty. But saying that the moulding is sharp, but as seems to be the norm with MB, figures suffers from flash running down the front and rear of each limb, nothing a sharp blade can't handle though. The heads come separate from the body so if you wish to substitute them with resin heads you can, but the detail and facial expressions on the kit parts will be good enough to please most.

Another welcome addition to the Master Box range of figures with lots of diorama potential.

Distributed in the UK by Creative Models.

7.5/10 Kev Smith

HOBBY FAN

U.S. STRYKER BRIGADE OIF ACU CREW (3)- 2 FIGURES
ITEM NO. HF 585

This new set from Hobby Fan contains two modern U.S. Tank Crew figures, wearing the new Army Combat Uniform (ACU), which have been designed to fit the AFV-Club M1128 Stryker Mobile Gun Systems but can also be used for all other appropriate vehicles.

The figures wear the well-known Interceptor Body Armour (IBA) with the attached Deltroid and Auxiliary Protector (DAP). Both heads come with Combat Vehicle Crewmen (CVC) helmets with mounting plates for AN/PVS-7 or AN/PVS-14 night vision goggles. Hobby Fan only added a few pouches to this set, which is the major drawback. If you take a look at photos showing soldiers in Iraq or Afghanistan you will easily recognise that they wear a lot of privately purchased equipment additional to the military issued gear. Besides others this includes pouches, tactical vests, knee and elbow protectors or even Camelbaks and knives.

As a little extra, four M6 smoke grenade launchers with covers were added to this kit.

Recommended

Distributed in the UK by Pocketbond Ltd.

8.5/10 Ralph Zwilling

HOBBY FAN
HF 585 1:35
U.S. STRYKER BRIGADE OIF ACU CREW(3)-2 FIGURES

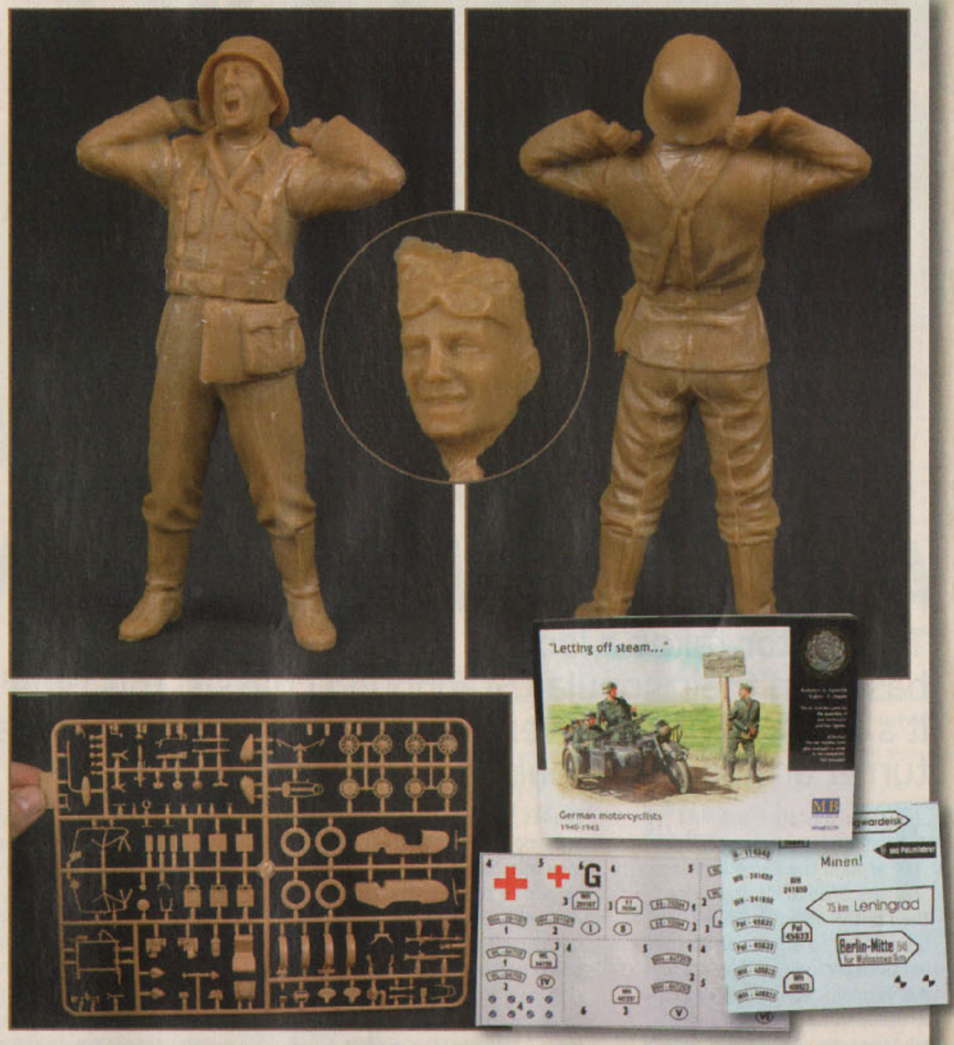
MASTER BOX LTD

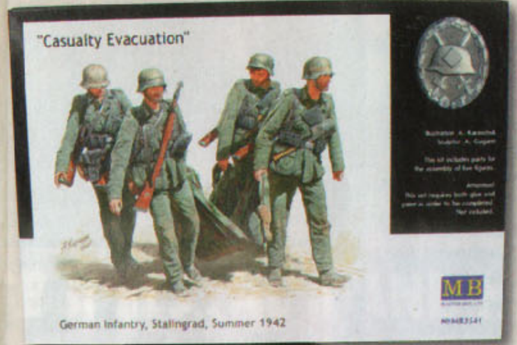
1:35 "LETTING OFF STEAM" GERMAN MOTORCYCLIST, 1940-1943 ITEM NO. 3539

Made from the familiar yellowish-brown plastic, which is a little softer than DML use and comes in the usual MB style box with excellent inspirational art. The bike comes on one sprue, and as with all MB kits there aren't any part numbers on the sprue, instead there is a picture of a numbered sprue on the reverse side of the instructions. This approach works OK with the figures but could prove problematic with a model as complex as the motorcycle and sidecar outfit. It could be that MB are trying to reduce the amount of plastic, but it doesn't help with the construction, as the modeller has to keep flicking constantly from the front to the back of the instructions during assembly! Overall, the detail of the kit in terms of engineering is good with lots of well moulded tiny parts; it will make the assembly fiddly – but rewarding. For example the engine is made up from sixteen parts and like any motorcycle kit will benefit from the addition of the cables and wiring. Flash is a problem and it's where you don't want it most, it seems to be all the fiddly bits that suffer the most. The other problem is with the tyres and their complete lack of any tread pattern, but don't let that put you off, these are minor niggles, that shouldn't really spoil the overall effect. To complement the bike, the kit comes with a figure set including three riders on one sprue. A pillion rider, a gunner in the sidecar, both of which are enjoying a cigarette. With the third rider the modeller gets a choice, you can, as the box art suggests have him answering the call of nature, or with optional parts have him enjoying a stretch. I can't comment on the fit of the figures but the moulding is sharp with a couple of nice touches such as the tunics below the belt as separate parts. This is a gem of a kit that will be a centre-piece of many a small diorama.

Distributed in the UK by Creative Models.

8/10 Kev Smith





MASTER BOX LTD.

1:35 INJECTION PLASTIC FIGURES CASUALTY EVACUATION ITEM NO. MB3541

Master Box are from the Ukraine and are getting a reputation for releasing the more unusual subjects and this set of figures is no different. The box contains five figures, four are carrying a fifth soldier who is a casualty in a Zeltbahn, which is being used as an improvised stretcher. The figures and their personal kit and weapons are contained on one large sprue. The detail is fairly sharp and the figures are well sculpted but do suffer from some flash, but this shouldn't present any real problems. This set does incorporate some nice touches, including separately moulded tunic parts below the waste belt. The Zeltbahn used as the makeshift stretcher incorporates hands moulded into the four corners, as well as onto the arms of the infantrymen giving the modeller options for conversions. The Zeltbahn comes in two halves and is really quite convincing with the join hidden underneath the casualty, but could benefit from thinning the edges down a little for a more convincing look. Overall an imaginative set with plenty of diorama potential

Distributed in the UK by Creative Models.

8/10 Kev Smith

T17E2 Staghound AA
No 6463
1:35
Decals for
Figures not included
ITALERI
Special photo-etched fret included
3517
No. 6463 STAGHOUND AA
F235764

AIRCRAFT HUNTING HOUND

The Editor takes a look at Italeri's second release based on their popular Staghound chassis, this time it's the Anti-Aircraft version mounting the Fraser-Nash turret armed with a pair of .50-cal machine guns.

Italeri's Staghound Mk.1 armoured car was released around the same time as the Bronco kit and since then both companies have been quick to announce further versions including the Mk.3 and AA versions. Keith Goldsworthy wrote a comparison on the Mk.1s in a previous issue, where he concluded that both had their merits and short comings, preferring the detail in the Bronco kit and the ease of build with the Italeri one.

The kit consists of around 205 olive green injection-plastic parts, an etched brass fret, which includes items such as the ring-sight, straps for the external fuel tanks, driver's windscreen frames and headlight guards, which thanks to a former included on sprue 'A' will be easy to bend into shape. Also included is a small acetate sheet for the glazing and a length of braided thread for the tow cables. The first thing I noticed when browsing through the instructions is that Italeri have gone down the same road as Dragon and instead of line drawing making up the assembly sequence, they have used black and white photographs on an actual model being assembled. I must say that they do work really well and are easy to follow.

The general assembly of the hull is much simpler than the equivalent Bronco rendition thanks to its one-piece lower hull tub and the fact that it has a lot less microscopically sized parts to add to the hull assembly. The downside of this is that the overall detail isn't quite as crisp and some parts have been simplified.

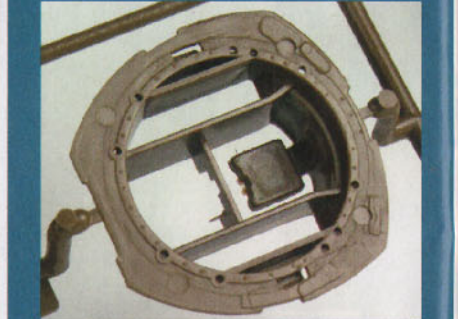
A new turret ring is supplied to accept the new smaller one-man AA turret, this part is nicely detailed and even includes subtle texture, casting numbers and foundry mark. The new piece fits neatly over the standard turret ring, but just be careful when gluing this part in place and make sure the casting numbers are toward the front of the hull and that the locating tab drops into the corresponding cut-out properly so the part sits level with the hull top.

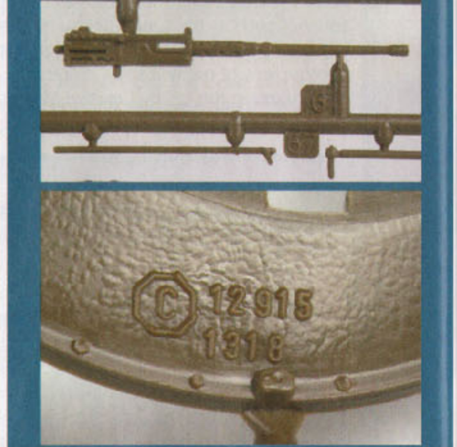
Italeri have made a decent attempt at producing the complex gun mountings and sighting assembly but the turret basket has been simplified somewhat and would really benefit from a half figure of the gunner to fill the space.

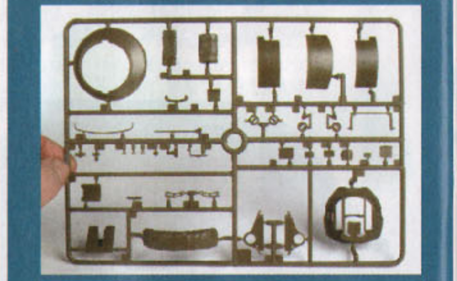
The .50-cal machine guns are an improvement over the ones you will be familiar with, if you ever owned one of Italeri's old M4A1 kits. However they do still suffer from prominent mould seams and the ends of the barrels will need drilling out for that extra touch of realism.

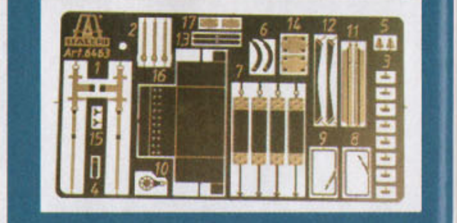
Painting and marking options are included for four vehicles, two are for Polish units operating in Italy, the next is for a Canadian vehicle in North West Europe and the last is for a U.S. Army vehicle from an unknown unit, 1944. Of interest is the second Polish vehicle, named 'Obertyn' which sports a two-tone camouflage scheme of black and green that unfortunately due to the rather dark black and white printing used and the inclusion of only 3-view drawings, makes the scheme very hard to see. I think Italeri could do with taking a leaf out of some of the other manufacturers books and include a separate full colour sheet with 5-view illustrations, so the whole colour scheme can be seen clearly.

Having not had the chance to examine the Bronco Staghound AA (CB35-026) kit in detail, I can't do a direct comparison, but suffice to say in the present economic climate I guess it all comes down to price and whether you feel you are getting value for money. Not long ago if it came down to cost, the Italeri kit would win hands down because they have always been very reasonably priced, but as this latest Italeri release is retailing in the UK for around £30 and the soon to be released Bronco kit is going to sell for about £5 less, it is certainly going to make the somewhat more complex and potentially better detailed Bronco version the more realistic choice. ■









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- Italeri's LVT-4
- Tamiya's JS-2
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- Dragon's sFH18 Field Howitzer
- Tamiya's 1:48 Sd.Kfz. 250/3 'Greif' half-track
- Bronco's Staghound armoured car

» and more...

Issue 23
- Part 2 detailing a 1:16 King Tiger
- Painting a Michael Wittmann figure
- Italeri' 1:48 RAF Chinook
- Putting an LVT-4 into a watery diorama
- Bofors Gun refernce photos
- Resicast AOP Bren Carrier
- Dragon 1:6 Kettenkrad
- Tamiya 1:35 JS-2

» and more...

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- Academy M3 Grant
- Dragon's Initial Tiger I
- Nuremberg Toy Fair Report
- Italeri' MH-60K
- Tamiya Hetzer Diorama
- Dragon M4 half track mortar carrier
- ICM Studebaker
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- Dragon Porsche King Tiger

» and more...

Issue 25
- MiniArt 1:35 SU-76
- Azimut 1:35 Morris truck mounted Bofors anti aircraft gun
- Trumpeter 1:144 U.S. Navy LCAC
- Trumpeter 1:35 E-25
- Dragon 1:35 UH-1 Huey
- Dragon 1:35 Jagdpanther (early version)
- Trumpeter SAM-6 Afghan diorama
- Fujimi 1:144 Dora Rail Gun

» and more...

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- Academy's legendary M113
- Dragon Firefly
- AFV Club's Sturmtiger
- IMA's Churchill Bridgelayer conversion
- Dragon's Panther Aust.G Smart Kit
- Dragon's DX'07 Late Tiger I
- Dragon's 2nd Expo release of George Bose's early StuG.III G
- Trumpeter's Geschützwagen Tiger

» and more...

Issue 27
- Dragon Panzer IV F1
- Dragon zimmerit coated King Tiger
- Tamiya Challenger
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- Italeri latest DUKW
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» and more...

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- Tristar Early Brummbär
- Lion Roar detail sets
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- Trumpeter E10 'Paper Panzer'
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- Tamiya 1:48 M20 scout car

» and more...

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- Tasca's M4A1
- AFV Club Cent - IDF Nagmachon conversion
- Dragon zimmerit coated Panther D
- Diorama techniques
- Dragon small scale releases
- Trumpeter's E10 - Part 2
- War & Peace Show report
- SKP A30 Challenger

» and more...

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- Bronco's Comet cruiser tank
- Trumpeter's Air Defence LAV
- Trumpeter's PT-76
- IPMS Portugal Exposition report
- Tamiya Opel Blitz
- Jordi Rubio's Kf.13 Adler
- M48A3 'Patton' reference

» and more...

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- Cromwell Models FV432/2 APC
- Bronco's Land Wasser Schlepper Pt.1
- Dragon's zimmerit coated panzer
- Bronco's Staghound conversion
- Dragon Dicker Max
- Overloon museum report
- Dragon 1:6 Kübelwagen
- FV430 Mk3 Bulldog reference

» and more...

Issue 33
- Free Tankfest'08 supplement Pt.2
- P-47 Thunderbolt diorama
- West Cornwall model show report
- Revell M48A2G conversion
- Dragon Sturmhaubitze 42 Ausf. G
- Bronco's Land-Wasser-Schlepper Pt.2
- Resicast T16 carrier and 6 pounder anti-tank gun
- Budget airbrushes comparison

» and more...

Issue 34
- Italeri' 1:35 Schnellboot S-100 Pt1
- Resicast Rolls-Royce armoured car
- AFV Club Churchill Mk.III
- Dragon Jagdpanther
- Scale Model Factory show report
- Tasca Direct Vision Sherman II
- Tamiya 1:35 Jagdtiger
- IDF BTR-40 reference

» and more...

Issue 35
- Dragon Airborne figure set Dio
- Tamiya 1:48 KV-2
- Tamiya re-released Italian M13/40 and M40
- Legend Productions Merkava Mk.III Baz
- HobbyBoss V100 armoured cars
- Italeri S-100 Schnellboot
- Cromwell Models 1:35 Cougar and Haulers 1:48 Krupp Truck
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» and more...

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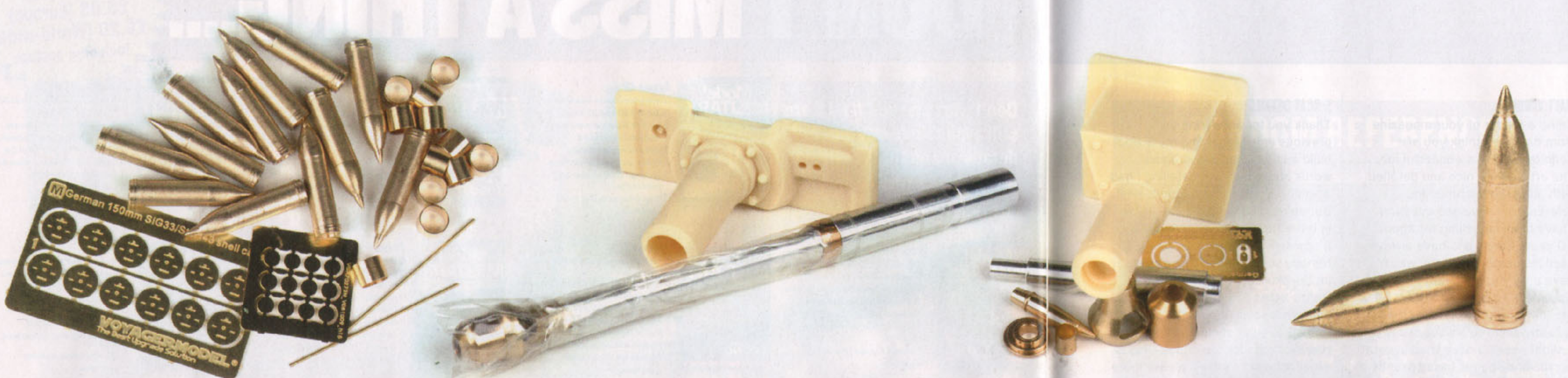


IT'S ALL IN THE DETAIL

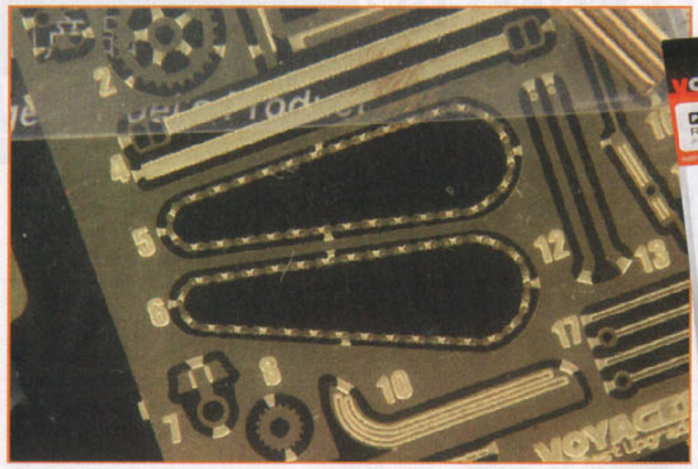
This month we have had so many new sets in from Voyager we have had to dedicate a couple of pages to them!

Normally we would include any new detailing set in our Incoming section, but this month we have received so many I felt it was unfair to only give them a cursory mention and only include a couple of photos.

Voyager have not only been busy producing their familiar detailing sets, but have also been quietly producing a very nice range of turned aluminium and brass gun barrels complete with perfectly cast resin mantlets, although the majority of them are for German vehicles, they have produced barrels for the JS-2, Leclerc and .50-cal machine guns. To compliment both their detailing and barrel sets Voyager are producing some superb turned brass ammunition sets. The latest 105mm and 150mm sets offer the ultimate, no expense spared upgrade for the latest Geschutzwagen IV B fur 10.5cm, Brummbar or Grasshopper from the likes of Trumpeter, Tristar and Dragon.

With so many companies producing detailing sets, it can be a bit confusing as to which ones to choose, well I can honestly say, that thanks to the quality of the Voyager sets, be they large or small the craftsmanship is of the same extremely high standard, making them a very wise choice, and thanks to easy to follow instructions one the novice will feel confident with. Thoroughly recommended. ■

The Editor



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PE 35259
PE 35243
PE 35251
PE 35267
PEA 133
PE35254
PE 35279

COMPREHENSIVE DETAIL SET

WWII GERMAN KING TIGER (PORSCHE TURRET PE 35234
IDF SHOT KAL CENTURION MK.5/1 1973 PE 35243
OPEL BLITZ 3T 4X2 CARGO TRUCK/SHALLOW CARGO BAY (TAMIYA) PE 35246
BRITISH ARMOURED CAR STAGHOUND MK.I (ITALERI) PE 35250
WWII USMC M4A2 TANK LATE VERSION PTO PE 35251
PT-76 AMPHIBIOUS TANK MOD.1951 PE 35254
WW GERMAN SFH18 150MM CANNON PE 35255
WWII GERMAN BICYCLE (TAMIYA KIT) PE 35256
HEUSCHRECKE IV B "GRASSHOPPER" (TRUMPETER) PE 35259
STURMPANZER IV BRUMMBAR EARL VERSION (TRISTAR) PE 35260
STURMPANZER IV BRUMMBAR EARL VERSION FENDERS (TRISTAR) PE 35262
T-34/76 NO.112 FACTORY LATE PRODUCTION (DRAGON) PE 35267
T-34/76 NO.112 FACTORY LATE PRODUCTION FENDERS PE 35268
GESCHUTZWAGEN IVB FUR 10.5CM LE.F.H. 18/1 (SF) (TRUMPETER) PE 35275
GESCHUTZWAGEN IVB FUR 10.5CM LE.F.H. 18/1 (SF) FENDERS (TRUMPETER) PE 35276
RUSSIAN MAZ-537G TRACTOR UNIT (MID PRODUCTION) PE 35277
RUSSIAN MAZ-537G TRACTOR UNIT (LATE PRODUCTION) PE 35278
RUSSIAN MAZ/CHMZAP-5247G TRAILER PE 35279
LAND-WASSER-SCHLEPPER MID PRODUCTION (BRONCO) PE 35283

ACCESSORY SETS

GERMAN SD.KFZ. 164 "NASHORN" ARMOUR PLATE PEA128
STURMPANZER IV BRUMMBAR EARL VERSION SIDE SKIRTS (TRISTAR) PEA133
SD.KFZ.222 & SD.KFZ. 250/9 ALTE TURRET WITH ANTI-GRENADE MESH TYPE. 1 PEA145
SD.KFZ.222 & SD.KFZ. 250/9 ALTE TURRET WITH ANTI-GRENADE MESH TYPE. 2 PEA146
SD.KFZ.222 & SD.KFZ. 250/9 ALTE TURRET WITH ANTI-GRENADE MESH TYPE. 3 PEA147
US ARMY M1A2 SIDE SKIRT DETAILS(DRAGON KIT) PEA148
US ARMY M1A2 TUSK SLAT ARMOUR (DRAGON KIT) PEA149
GESCHUTZWAGEN IVB FUR 10.5CM LE.F.H. 18/1 (SF) AMMUNITION STOWAGE (TRUMPETER) PE150
WWII USMC M4A2 TANK LATE VERSION SIDE SKIRTS PEA159
GERMAN 200L FUEL DRUM END COVERS PEA160
WWII GEMAN 20L CAN UPDATE SET PEA161
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GERMAN 10.5CM STURMHAUBLITZE 42 AUSF.G BARREL W/SAUKOPF MANTLET VBS 0121
GERMAN 10.5CM STURMHAUBLITZE 42 AUSF.G BARREL W/WELDED MANTLET VBS 0122
HEUSCHRECKE IVB "GRASSHOPPER" BARREL W/MANTLET VBS0123
GERMAN 150MM STUH 43 AMMUNITION VBS0305
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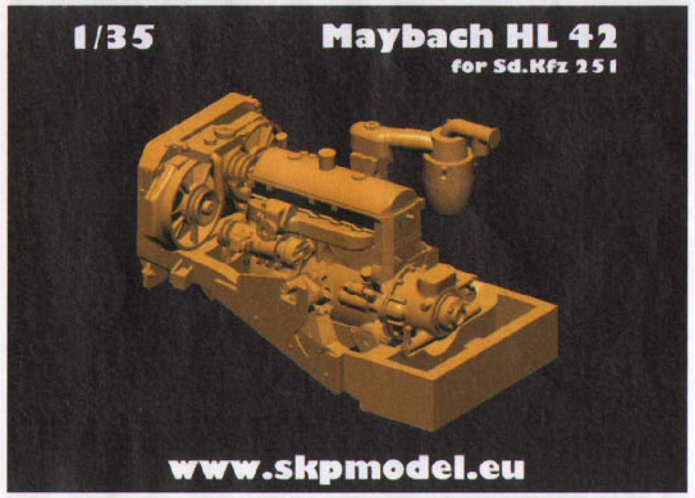

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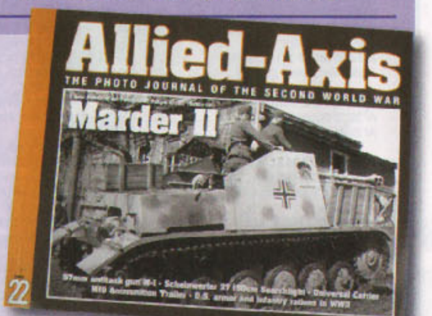
RECOMMENDED READING



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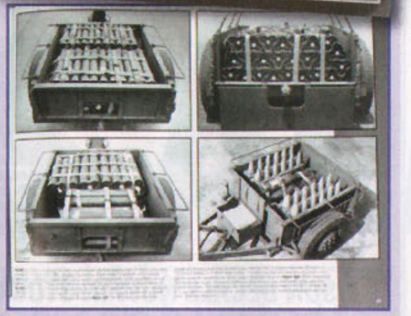
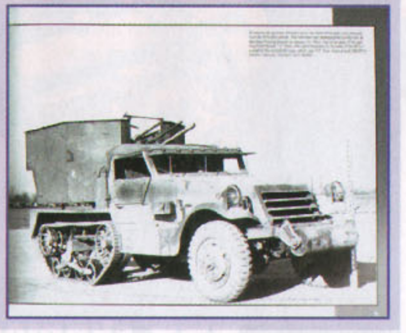
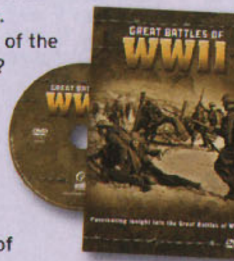




This series, in my eyes just goes from strength to strength and it never ceases to amaze me where they manage to keep finding such superb material to fill the pages with. I love the large format photos, which offer so much reference for both the super detailer and diorama builder alike.
In this issue we are offered a nice spread of topic to keep both Allied and Axis armour modellers happy. For the Axis modeller we have some great photos of the Marder II, Scheinwerfer 37 and 150cm searchlight and for the fans of Allied subjects we have the M-1 57mm anti-tank gun, M10 ammunition trailer, the Universal Carrier and the M15 MGMC if you fancy tackling a serious conversion based on the new Dragon M16. Lastly a fascinating feature on U.S. armour and infantry rations, so no excuses for stowing your next Sherman with the wrong kind of boxes!
Another excellent edition and one I can thoroughly recommend for anyone who has been collecting this series, and if you haven't you have been missing out.

THE DVD COMPETITION WINNERS

In issue 32 we ran a competition in association with Pinnacle Vision to win three sets of their DVDs.
The question was - What were the code names of the two British beaches during the D-Day landings?
The correct answer is **Sword** and **Gold** and the three lucky winners, picked at random, are:



Alan Williams	**Mr L J Pugh**	**Darren Bilham**
Eastleigh	Ellesmere	King's Lynn
Hampshire	Shropshire	Norfolk

The six runners up, who will all receive a copy of the 'Great Battles' DVD, are: Mr D. Leadbetter (Fleetwood, Lancashire), Will Sandry (Suckley, Worcestershire), Bob Turnett (West Wickham, Kent), Winfried Gladel (Saarlouis, Germany), Alex Bolton (Withenshaw, Manchester), Michael Frankiss (Norwich, Norfolk). *Prizes already dispatched.*

Congratulations to you all

MATT VARNISH

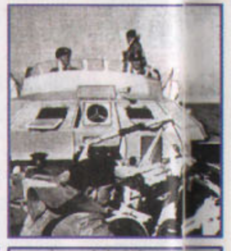
Being a reader of your magazine from day one I think you are definitely doing a wonderful job. The articles are nice and detailed with adequate pictures and references. I have one question.
I have been modelling for about 40 years I think and have always used Humbrol Matt Cote, which gave a very good (dead) flat finish. Nowadays I can't get it right. All the matt varnishes I have tried recently seem to always dry with a slight sheen. I have tried several acrylic and enamel based brands but all have offered similar results.
Could you advise on a really good matt coat, and how to spray it on. That also seems to be part of my problem to getting a flawless finish. I once had a workshop from Phil Stucinskas. He advised Daler Rowney Matt Varnish. It took me some time to obtain a bottle but the stuff was more like a matt paste I think the bottle had been standing on the a shelf too long.
And maybe you can advise me on how to clean Johnson's Klear Floor Polish out of your airbrush.
I bought a bottle when I was in England. On the bottle it says clean with ammonia. Well my family will kill me if I start to spray ammonia as well as all the other solvents, which they have had to get used to with my hobby over the years.

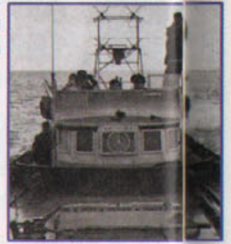
Jaspert Meijburg
The Netherlands.

***Ed Says;** I personally use both the Vallejo Modelair and Modelcolor Matt Varnish; the Modelair can be sprayed without further thinning and the Modelcolor I thin with about 50% tap water or Vallejo's own acrylic thinner. All of my models that you see in this magazine are matted with these and the work very well;*
I always spray in several very light coats and not one heavy one. I use an Iwata HP-C Plus airbrush with the pressure set to about 30psi, which is quite a high pressure. The advantage of using this pressure is that the varnish doesn't get a chance to dry in the air before landing on the surface of the model preventing a 'sandpaper' like finish.
For cleaning Johnson's out of an airbrush, I first spray water through it followed by a standard acrylic thinner. This seems to work fine, as long as you do this straight after you have finished spraying.
If left until it has dried out cellulose car paint thinners will remove any residue, but remember use this as a last resort as it is very smelly and not very healthy to breathe in the fumes.
I hope this helps.

S-BOAT DETAILS

Thank you for answering my previous email regarding my S-Boat build and for your encouraging words about the rivet detailing I had added to the skullcap on my S-Boat. But on reading your second article in issue No.35, just received today, it now tells me now that I'll have to remove some lines of those rivets on the skullcap. Damn!
On the other hand, you made my day announcing Cammett's interest to market a set of clear resin running lights for the bridge. This is excellent news that will please more than one modeller, I'm sure. Thank you very much indeed for your invaluable involvement and help.
Back to your second article, sorry John if I am going to make you even more obsessive about this model. But I do understand your feelings; I am becoming a little obsessive myself with this model.
On page 38, bottom right you wrote: "Close-up part... wheelhouse ventilator housing."
In the two photos I have included, which you may find of interest. The first one represents the front view of a skullcap fitted to a late model Schnellboot, which when studying the photo, the central opening could be interpreted as housing a ventilator.
The second picture, of an early S-38 type shows that the device looks obviously more like a clearview screen as we can see the glass reflecting in the sunlight. Hope anyway this will be of some help to you?



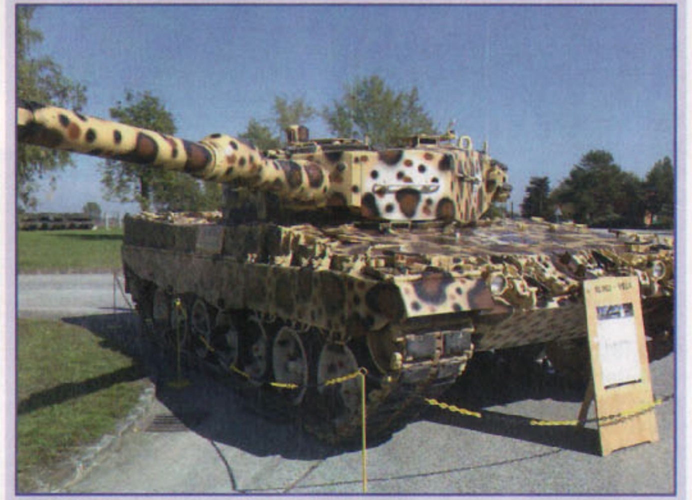


With best regards,
Robert S. Palmacci
Paris, France

PS: Do you think I would be pushing my luck too far in asking if Cammett could also provide a set of ladders for the open hatches on the deck?

***Ed Says;** You are spot on, I have become slightly obsessive with this model. Thanks for the information on the 'ventilator' it makes perfect sense for it to be a clearview screen as it would be directly in front of the Helmsman's position in the wheelhouse.*
And as regards to your enquiry about Cammett doing some ladders for the open deck hatches, well that is looking very promising and they are just working out the best way to do a full set of canvas dodgers for the side railings. Keep an eye on Cammett's website for updates at http://cammett.websds.net/

RANDOM REFERENCE!



LEOPARD SPOTS

I must thank Paul Middleton from the Cambridge branch of MAFVA for sending in this brilliant photo of a Leopard 2A4 painted in the colours of, well a Leopard!
If you have one in your un built kit collection and fancy having a go at this 'wild' scheme, it will surely be a real head turner at any model show, but don't forget to take this photo to put beside it or no one will believe you.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

BLIZZARDS AND VISITS

They say bad things always happen in threes and this certainly seems to be true in my case. In the last two issues I wrote about Murphy's Law and how it constantly follows me about, well to be honest I didn't think for one second I would be writing part three of the saga.
On the evening of Thursday 5th February I packed my car ready to set off first thing on Friday morning to make the 320-mile drive to the airport for my trip to Nuremberg. The problem was I woke to the news that the south west of England was cut off due to a freak blizzard, which blocked the one and only route out of the county I could use with over a foot of snow. Now I know anyone reading this who lives in countries used to this will be laughing at how a little bit of snow grinds our country to a halt. Anyway suffice to say I couldn't make the trip to the Toyfair and so I would like to take this opportunity to say sorry to all the people I had arranged to meet there and thanks to TMMI's Editor, Marcus Nicholls for taking the photos for my report! Hopefully I will have better luck next year?
On the 4th Of April, the Tank Museum will be holding a special event to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Royal Armoured Corps. This event will feature the museums vehicles in action along with a selection of current vehicles in use with the British Army and in particular the Royal Armoured Corps. Rumour has it, that this will be the unofficial opening of their amazing new hall! If you love tanks then this has to be the place to be on the 4th of April. For further info please go to the Tank Museums website @ *www.tankmuseum.org*

See you again on April 2nd

Spud
John 'Spud' Murphy

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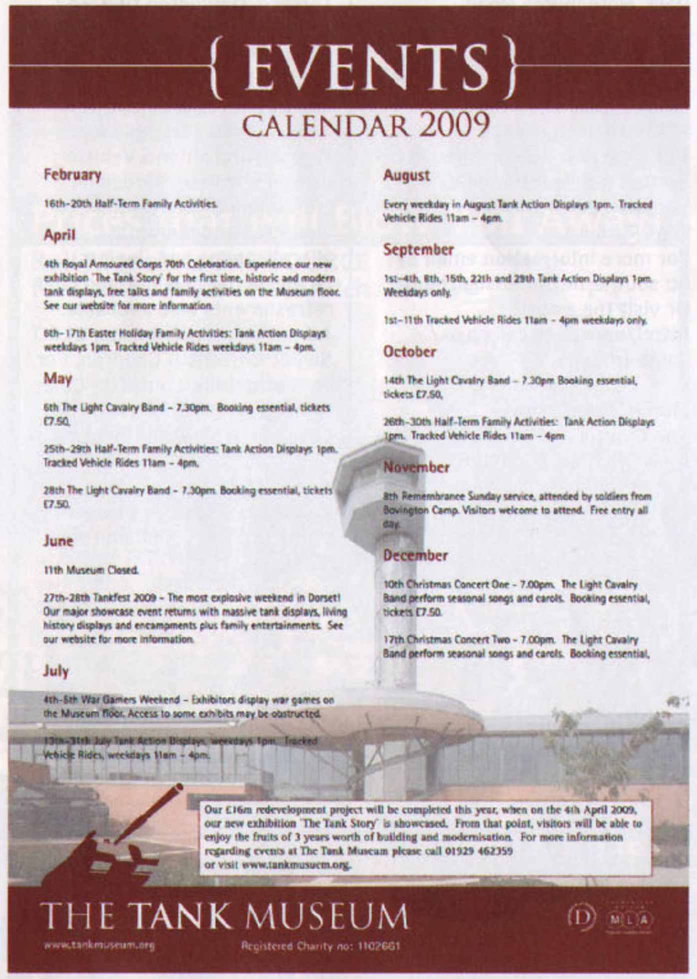

{EVENTS}
CALENDAR 2009

February

16th–20th Half-Term Family Activities.

April

4th Royal Armoured Corps 70th Celebration. Experience our new exhibition 'The Tank Story' for the first time, historic and modern tank displays, free talks and family activities on the Museum floor. See our website for more information.

6th–17th Easter Holiday Family Activities: Tank Action Displays weekdays 1pm. Tracked Vehicle Rides weekdays 11am – 4pm.

May

6th The Light Cavalry Band – 7.30pm. Booking essential, tickets £7.50.

25th–29th Half-Term Family Activities: Tank Action Displays 1pm. Tracked Vehicle Rides 11am – 4pm.

28th The Light Cavalry Band – 7.30pm. Booking essential, tickets £7.50.

June

11th Museum Closed.

27th–28th Tankfest 2009 – The most explosive weekend in Dorset! Our major showcase event returns with massive tank displays, living history displays and encampments plus family entertainments. See our website for more information.

July

4th–5th War Gamers Weekend – Exhibitors display war games on the Museum floor. Access to some exhibits may be obstructed.

13th–31st July Tank Action Displays, weekdays 1pm. Tracked Vehicle Rides, weekdays 11am – 4pm.

August

Every weekday in August Tank Action Displays 1pm. Tracked Vehicle Rides 11am – 4pm.

September

1st–4th, 8th, 15th, 22th and 29th Tank Action Displays 1pm. Weekdays only.

1st–11th Tracked Vehicle Rides 11am – 4pm weekdays only.

October

14th The Light Cavalry Band – 7.30pm Booking essential, tickets £7.50.

26th–30th Half-Term Family Activities: Tank Action Displays 1pm. Tracked Vehicle Rides 11am – 4pm

November

8th Remembrance Sunday service, attended by soldiers from Bovington Camp. Visitors welcome to attend. Free entry all day.

December

10th Christmas Concert One – 7.00pm. The Light Cavalry Band perform seasonal songs and carols. Booking essential, tickets £7.50.

17th Christmas Concert Two – 7.00pm. The Light Cavalry Band perform seasonal songs and carols. Booking essential,

Our £16m redevelopment project will be completed this year, when on the 4th April 2009, our new exhibition 'The Tank Story' is showcased. From that point, visitors will be able to enjoy the fruits of 3 years worth of building and modernisation. For more information regarding events at The Tank Museum please call 01929 462359
or visit www.tankmusuem.org.

THE TANK MUSEUM
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Diary Dates

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Tel:01525 222573·Fax:01525 222574·Email:editor@modelmilitary.com

March 8th
The Warboys Model Show will take place at the Warboys Parish Centre, Warboys, Cambridgeshire UK. The show will run from 2 till 4pm and will be open to entrants arriving from 12.30 onwards.
It will be a fun event not a competition and is open to anybody with a model.
For further info www.simonsmodelandcrafts.co.uk or call 01223 262426 / 07988 617289/07988 620478.

March 8th
Northern Scale Model Show will be taking place at the Temple Park Leisure Centre, South Shields NE34 8QN Highlights will include an open competition, including junior classes, the show will also be supported with a good mix of traders and visiting model clubs. Doors open at 10am.

March 14th/15th
After last year's very successful show, Southern Expo is back on March 14th and 15th 2009.
The show will be open from 10am to 5pm on Saturday and 10am to 4 pm on Sunday. As before the show will be held at Hornchurch Sports Centre, Harrow Lodge Park, Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 1ET.
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March 28th/29th
The Cyprus IPMS will be holding their 9th annual exhibition/competition at the "Skali" Cultural Centre. Entry will be free and the competition is open to both IPMS and non-members.
Information: Tel (357) 99574535
email: yiokis@cytanet.com.cy

April 4th
The Euro Model Expo is an all new exposition which will take place in the heart of Europe at the Westmuensterlandhalle Am Sportzentrum 7, 46359 Heiden, (Near the Dutch border) Heiden, Germany. 10am to 5pm.
The event for modellers, traders and clubs, who are dedicated to plastic modelling. We want to offer the opportunity of getting a bunch of information, the opportunity of learning new experiences and perhaps new friends. Finally we want to promote our great hobby with a contest, several demonstrations and workshop.
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April 4th
Sword & Lance 2009 presented by Darlington Military Modelling Society at the Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington DL3 7AX. Doors open 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. Model and Militaria displays, Demonstrations, Trade stands and Open Model Competition with sections for:- Military Figure, Aircraft and Vehicle painters, Military Modelling (scratchbuilt/ conversion, vignettes and dioramas), Miscellaneous and Juniors. Licensed bar plus hot and cold refreshments also available. Admission £2.00 Adults, £1.00 Senior Citizens & Children, For further details, contact: Colin Holmes on 01325 489801 or colin.holmes@whsmithnet.co.uk

April 4th
The IPMS/Phantom Phlashers of Birmingham, Alabama will be hosting their model contest at the City Meeting Center, Anniston, AL.
For additional info contact John jcornett@MTMEngineers.com or Phil at kimphilhale@bellsouth.net or go to our website at www.phantomphlashers.org for complete information and forms.

April 5th
Shropshire Scale Modellers will be holding their annual show at the Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford. Opening times are 10am to 4pm with free admission and parking. For further info please contact: Gary Stevens on 01939 270481

April 18th
IPMS Dorset (Poole Vikings Model Club) annual show to be held at Parkstone Grammar School, Sopers Lane, Poole, Dorset BH17 7EP.

April 19th
East Midlands Model Show 2009. The Leisure Centre, Hinkley, Lecs. £4.00 adults, £2.50 Children and OAPs. Open: 10am - 4.30pm Many traders and club displays, refreshments and bar available, free carparking, easy disabled access and large open competition.
Contact: Simon Mepstead 01455 230952 (Shop hours).

April 17-19th
The Mosonmagyarovar Model Contest 2009 will take place in the University of Western Hungary. We expect more than 1500 models from more than 25 countries.

April 25th/26th
Scottish Nationals to take place at the Dewars Centre, Glover Street, Perth PH2 0TH
www.scotnats.org.uk/show_index.htm

May 3rd
Moveleo Leopoldsburg present Model Force '09 at the "Technisch Instituut Don Bosco" school complex, Don Boscostraat 6, in the centre of Helchteren, Belgium. The show will be open from 10.00 till 17:00 and will feature club displays, traders, kid's corner, an open modeling contest, food and refreshments. Entrance is free.
Information - www.moveleo.be or modelforce@moveleo.be

May 3rd
6th Modellbaufreunde Siegen Model Show at festival hall in Wilnsdorf, Germany.
Information- info@modellbaufreunde-siegen.de or www.modellbaufreunde-siegen.de

May 10th
The Potteries Model Show this year will be held at the Meir Community and Education Centre, Pickford Place, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 7DX. Doors open at 10am, as usual there will be a wide range of traders and club stands, refreshments will be available throughout the day. For the competition this year there will be a prize of £150 of model vouchers for the Senior Best in Show, courtesy of Model Hobbies.co.uk. And the Junior Competition will have a voucher prize courtesy of Affinity Models. For further information please contact Alan Ewart on 01782 388892 ewaal253@aol.com or Mick Copestake on 01782 392353

May 23rd
Scale ACT '09 will be held at the Harmonie German Club, 49 Jerrabomberra Avenue, Narrabundah, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT), AUSTRALIA.
The event will feature scale model displays, competitions, local and interstate traders, a swap 'n sell, and a dinner on the Saturday evening.
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33021	P-51D int S.A.	DRA	
1/48th Scale			
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49430	BaE Hawk Mk.I S.A.	ITA	£13.50
49434	Il-10/Avia B-33	SPE	£12.50
48610	F-105D ext	HBS	
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49429	F-105D int S.A.	HBS	
49435	Airacobra Mk.I	HAS	
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72492	B-24J ext	HAS	£15.00
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73324	AH-64D S.A.	HBS	£12.50
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73325	Mi-8 Hip Int S.A.	HBS	
73327	B-25J solid nose int S.A	HAS	
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33019	P-51B int S.A.	TRU	£10.00
33020	A-7E int S.A.	TRU	£10.00
33021	P-51D int S.A.	DRA	
33022	Bf 109K int S.A.	HAS	
33023	F-14A int S.A.	TAM	
33024	Me 262A Schwalbe S.A.	TRU	
1/48th Zoom			
FE430	BaE Hawk Mk.I S.A.	ITA	£7.50
FE432	Sopwith Camel	EDU	£7.50
FE434	Avia B-33/Il-10	SPE	£7.50
FE 429	F-105D int S.A.	HBS	
FE 433	Fokker Dr.I	EDU	
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SS 324	AH-64D S.A.	HBS	£6.75
SS 325	Mi-8 Hip Int S.A.	HBS	
SS 327	B-25J solid nose int S.A.	HAS	
1/72nd Mask			
CX230	B-25J Solid nose	HAS	£4.95
CX 231	TA-7	HBS	
CX 232	UH-18	HBS	
1/48th Mask			
EX263	Avia B-33/Il-10	SPE	£4.95
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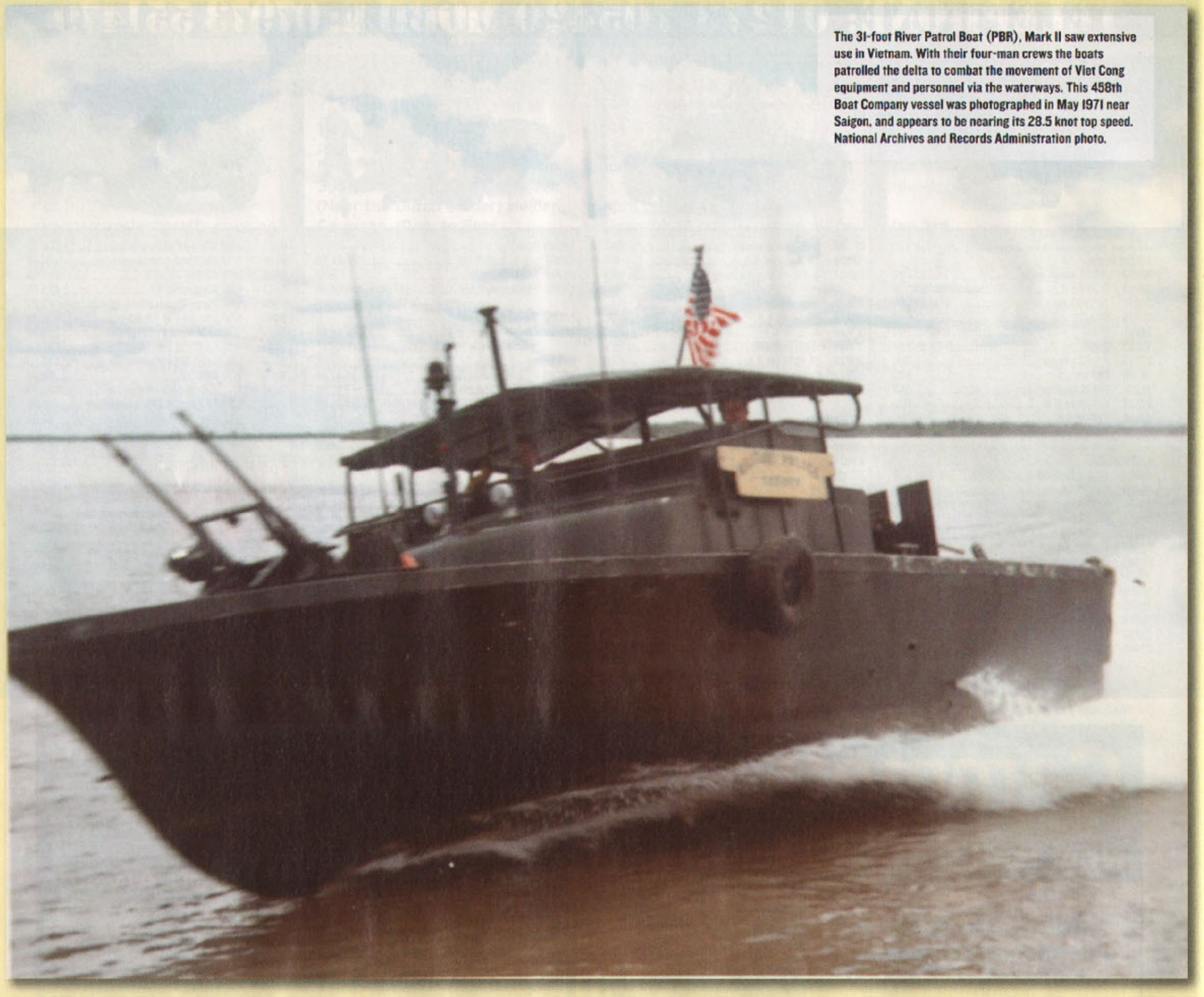


The 31-foot River Patrol Boat (PBR), Mark II saw extensive use in Vietnam. With their four-man crews the boats patrolled the delta to combat the movement of Viet Cong equipment and personnel via the waterways. This 458th Boat Company vessel was photographed in May 1971 near Saigon, and appears to be nearing its 28.5 knot top speed. National Archives and Records Administration photo.

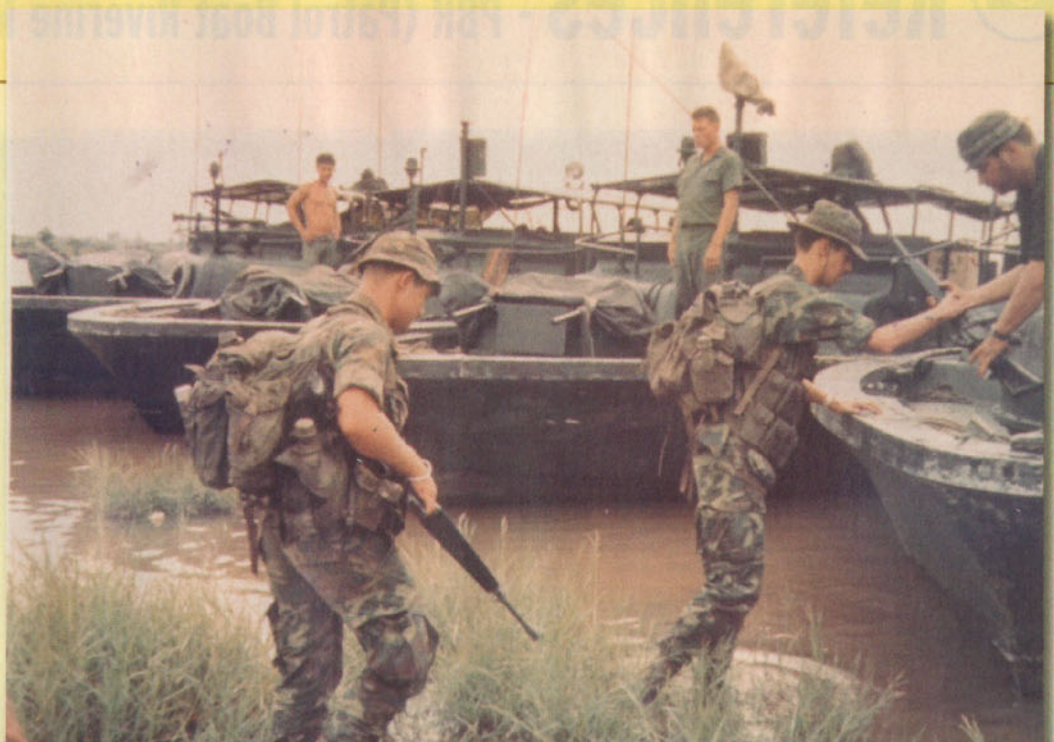
CHARLIE DON'T SURF!

David Doyle offers more fascinating full size reference photos, this month we look at the PBR Mk I and 2 which were made famous by the war movie Apocalypse Now. If you have the Tamiya kit in your stash of un-built kits, then this could be just the inspiration you need to get building.

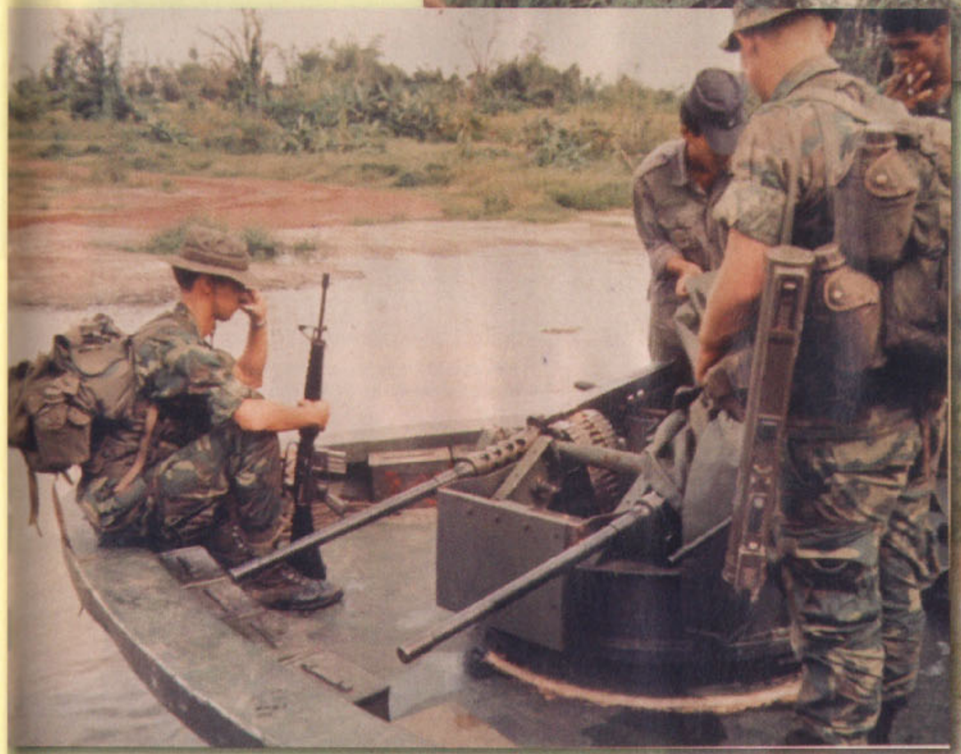
The extensive rivers, canals and wetlands of the Mekong Delta provided open avenues for movement by the Viet Cong. American naval leaders were determined to control these areas, and established the River Patrol Force (Task Force 116) on 18 December 1965. Lacking the proper equipment to operate successfully in this region, the US Navy turned to United Boat Builders of Bellingham, Washington (Uniflite) for a solution. Based on their Uniflite 31 sporting boat, the 31-foot PBR was developed.

The first PBRs began to be used in Vietnam in March of 1966. These boats were PBR Mark I models, and 161 were delivered, pennant numbers 31RP 66001 through 66161. Immediately problems with the design began to surface, resulting in the development of the PBK Mark II. These improved models began to arrive in Vietnam in September 1967, and remained in use through the US withdrawal. The Mark II was powered by a pair of Jacuzzi Mk 4 water jet pumps driven by a pair of Detroit Diesel 6V53N 216hp engines. The water jets not only provided propulsion, but steering as well, and allowed the vessels to operate in very shallow water.

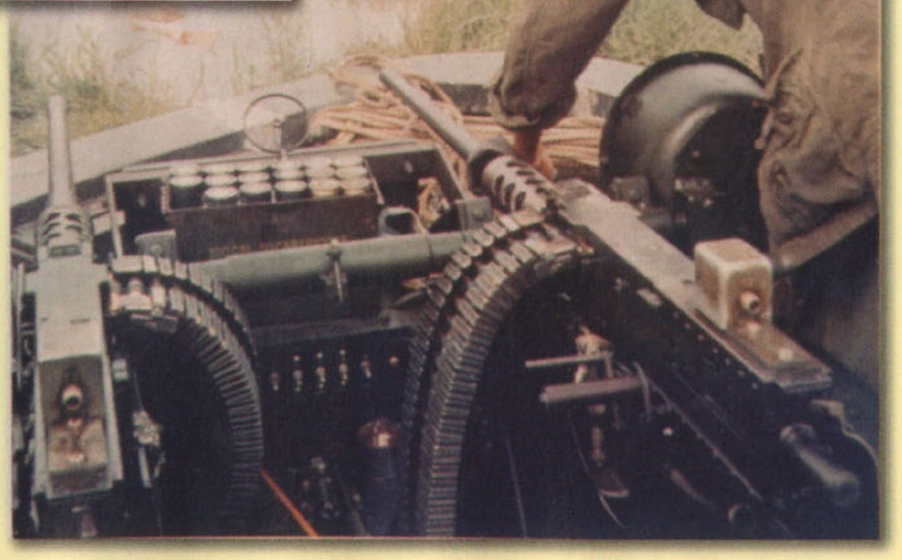
The most extensive use of the PBR was in Operation Game Warden, which began in 1966 combining the PBR with Naval Helicopter Support Squadron 1 gunship units to hunt down and destroy NVA and Vietcong targets. From 1966 through 1968 Game Warden sailors boarded and searched over 400,000 vessels. ■



An aluminium fender was introduced on the Mark II, which protected the gunwales of the fiberglass-hulled boat during docking and boarding. The worn paint on the fender is visible in this August 1970 photo of 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division soldiers boarding River Patrol Group 52 Mark II PBRs for an interdiction operation. National Archives and Records Administration photo. ▶

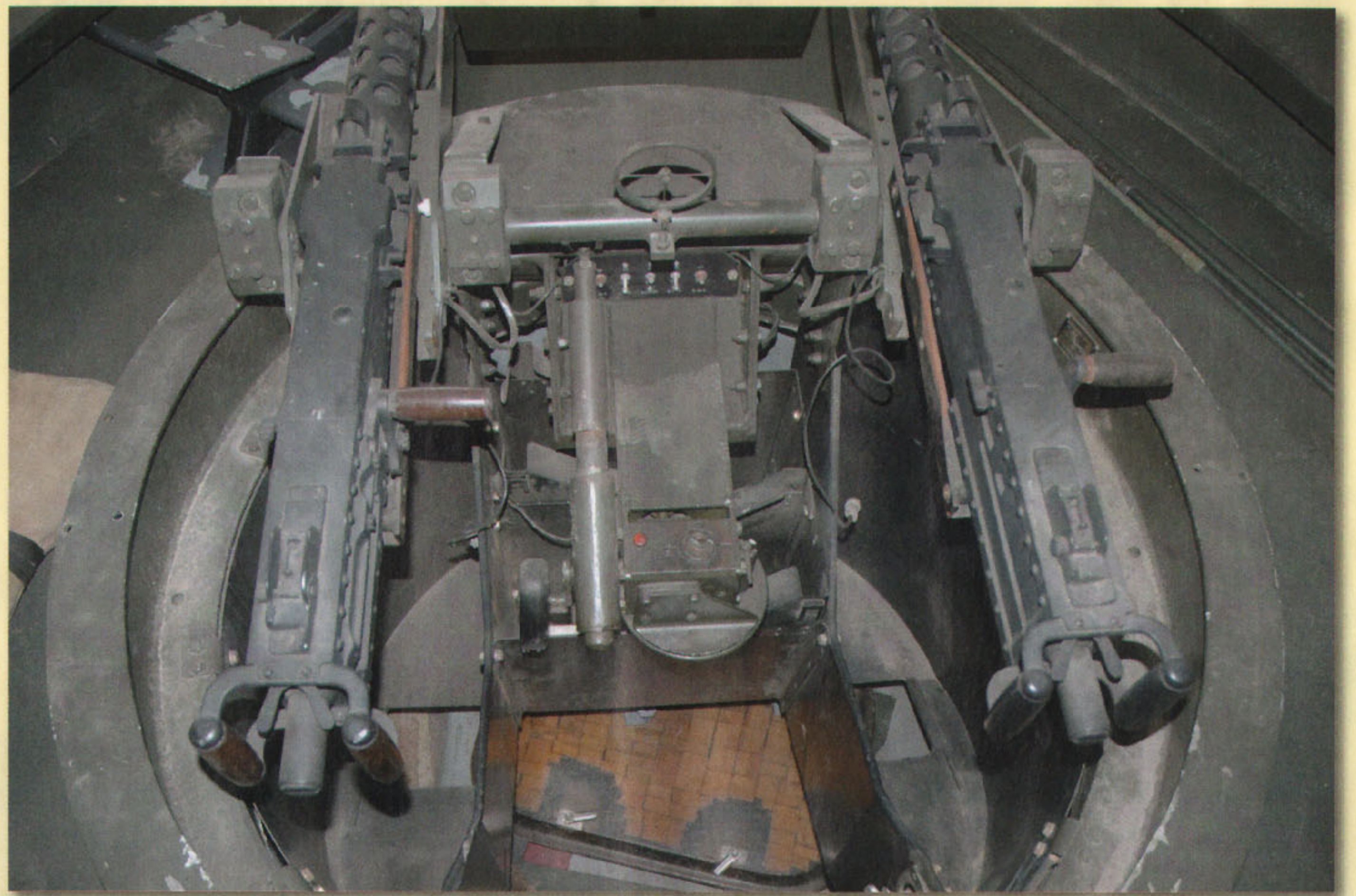


▲ The main armament of the PBR Mark II was this Mk.56 weapons mount with twin .50 calibre M2 machine guns. The turret was supplied with armour protection, which was often removed in the field in order to provide increased visibility for the gunner. National Archives and Records Administration photo.

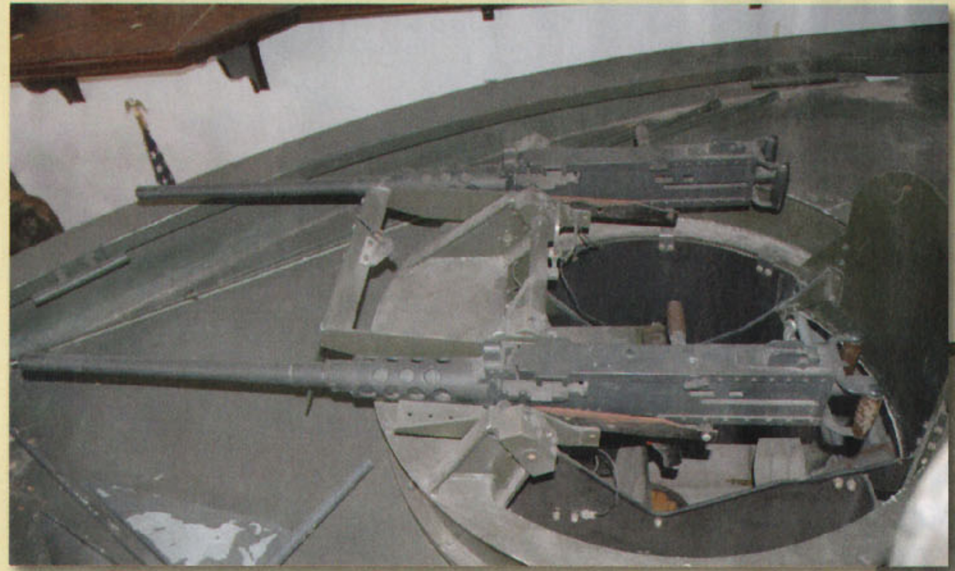


The turret's .50 calibre machine guns were electrically fired – note the anodised electric firing solenoids mounted where sights would normally be found atop the Brownings' receivers. PBR crewmen often supplemented the vessel's weapons with a variety of arms, both authorised and unauthorised, including grenade launchers, shotguns and LAW tubes – at least one PBR was even retrofitted with a minigun! National Archives and Records Administration photo. ▶

References - PBR (Patrol Boat Riverine Mk.1 and 2)

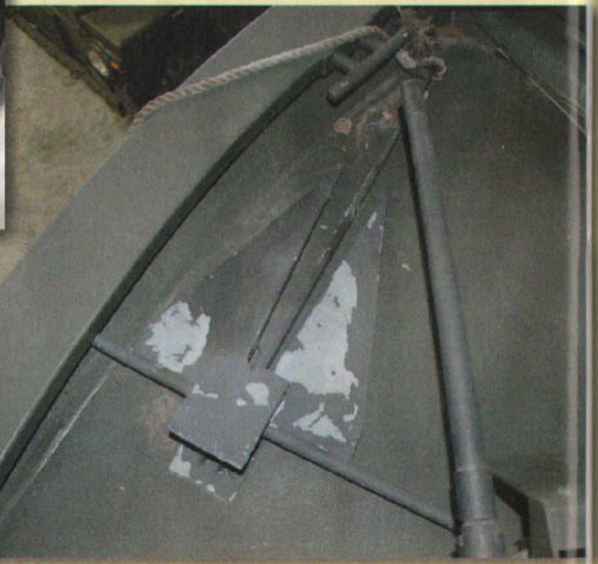


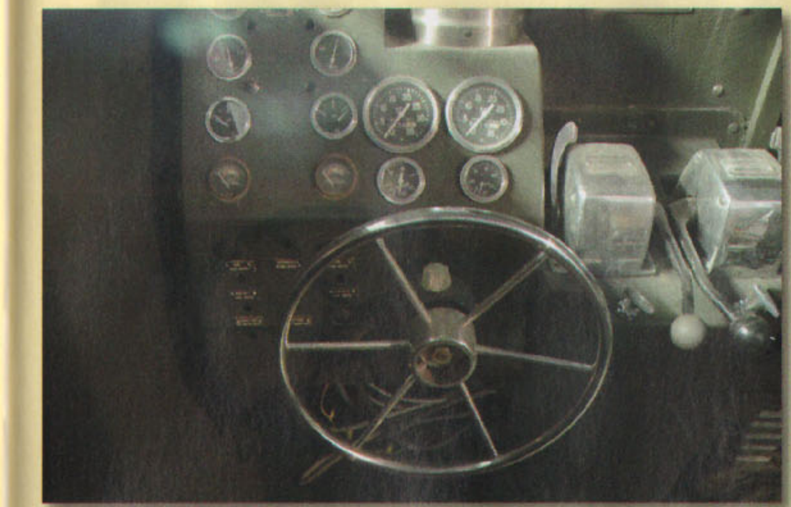
▲ This PBR, preserved at the Ropkey Armor Museum in Crawfordsville, Indiana, has had non-electrically fired guns installed in its turret.



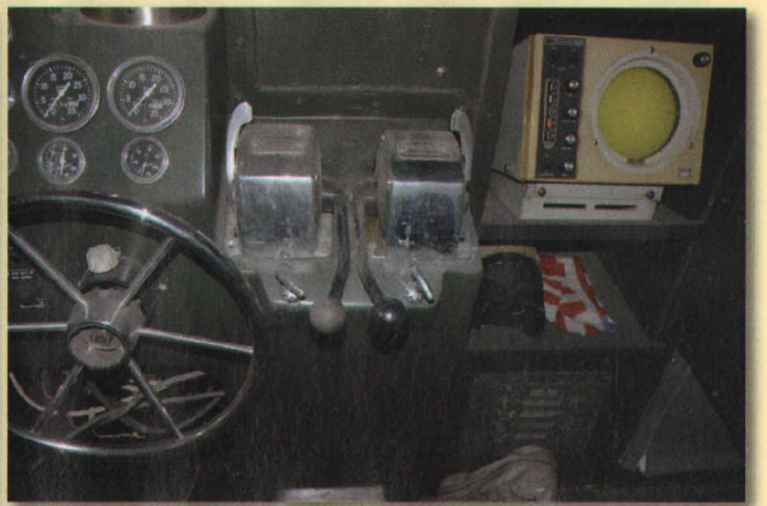
◀ Although all PBR crewmen were cross-trained – a necessity given their horrific casualty rates (contemporary reports put the rate at 70% per year) – this weapons station was normally manned by the vessel's Gunners Mate, an E4-E5 Petty Officer, who was also responsible for all ammo and armaments on board

Anchor stowed near the bow. ▶

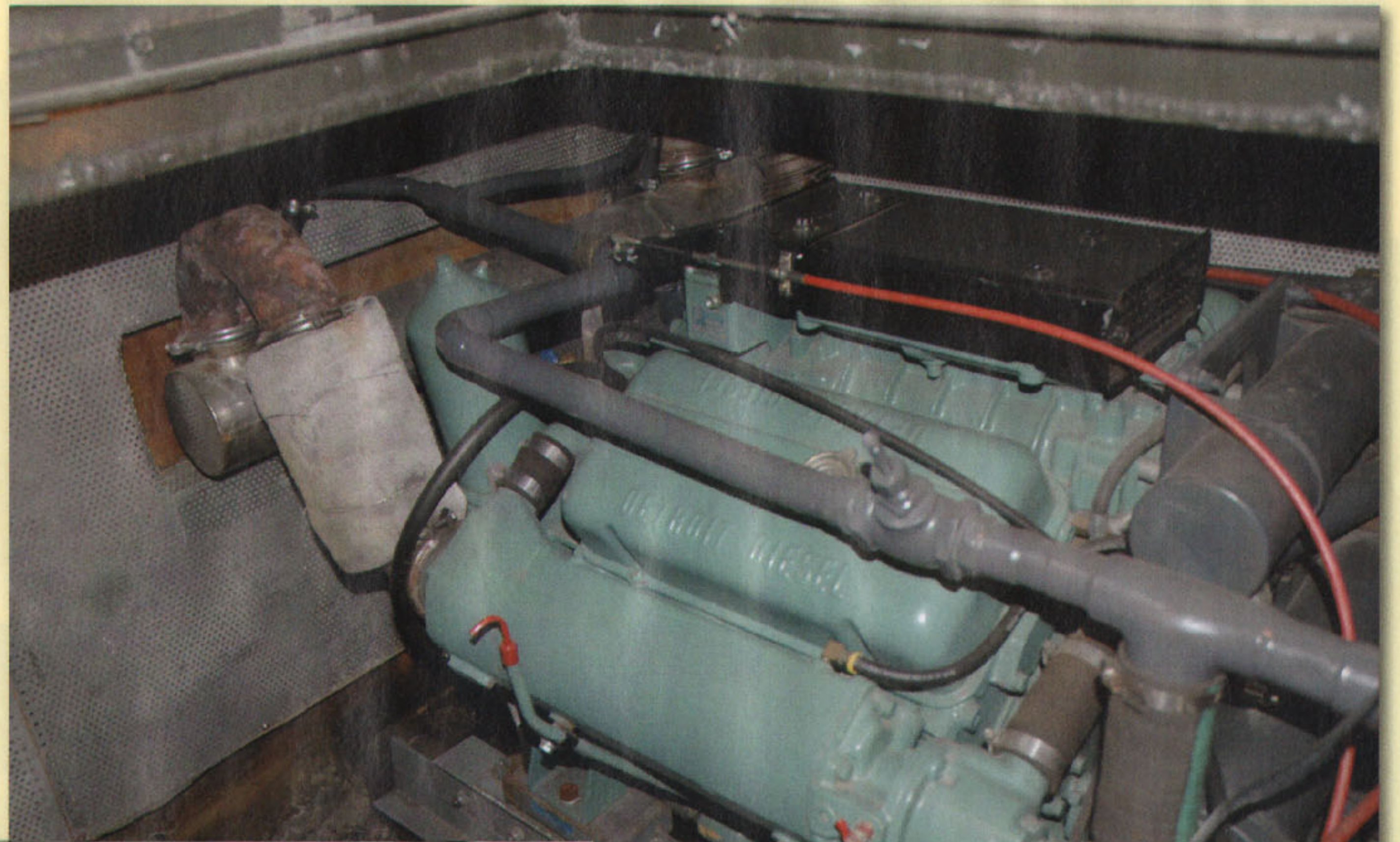




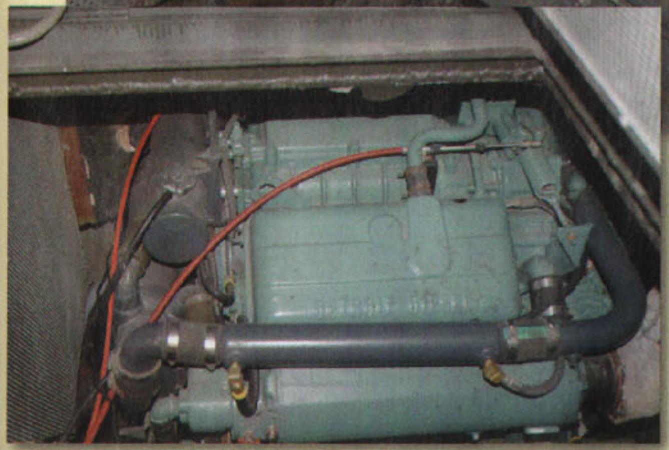
▲ Though equipped with a wheel, seen here, the PBR had no rudder. Rather, the aspect of the jet pump nozzles was changed to provide directional control.



▲ Each engine had its own throttle, and to the right of the throttle can be seen the screen for the Raytheon 1900/W radar set.

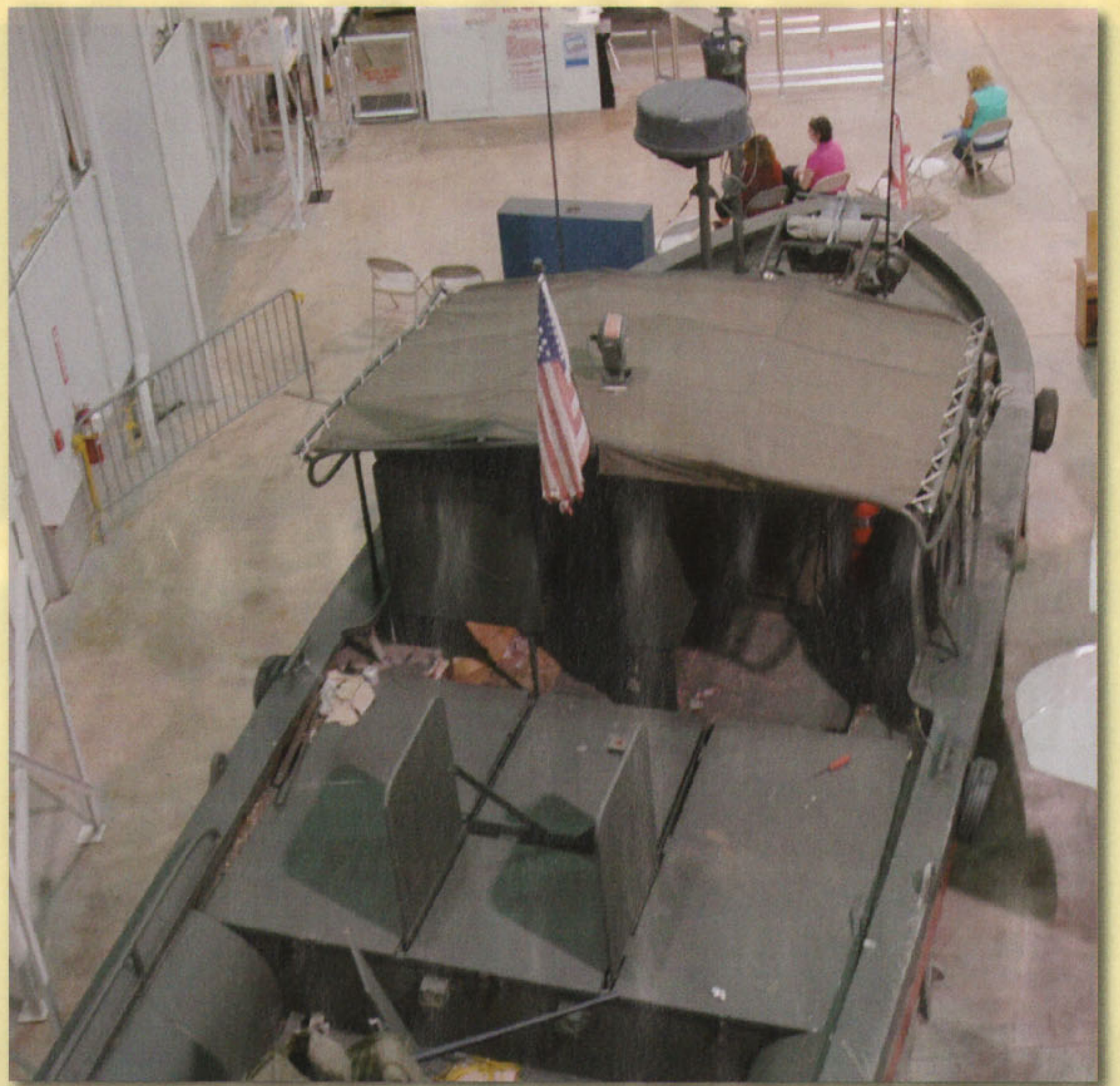


▲ The Detroit Diesels were noteworthy for being reliable, and somewhat noisy. The exhaust outlet to the muffler is visible here. With the 160-gallon fuel capacity, the two engines gave the boat a range of 150 nautical miles at 23 knots. This is the portside engine.

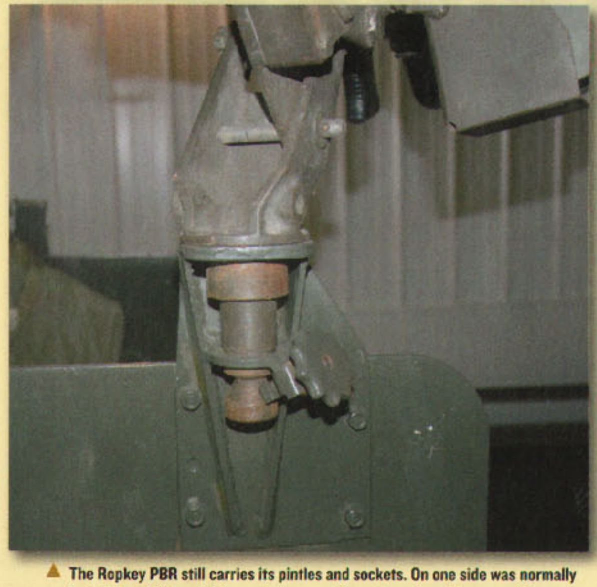


◀ Starboard engine.

References - PBR (Patrol Boat Riverine Mk.1 and 2)

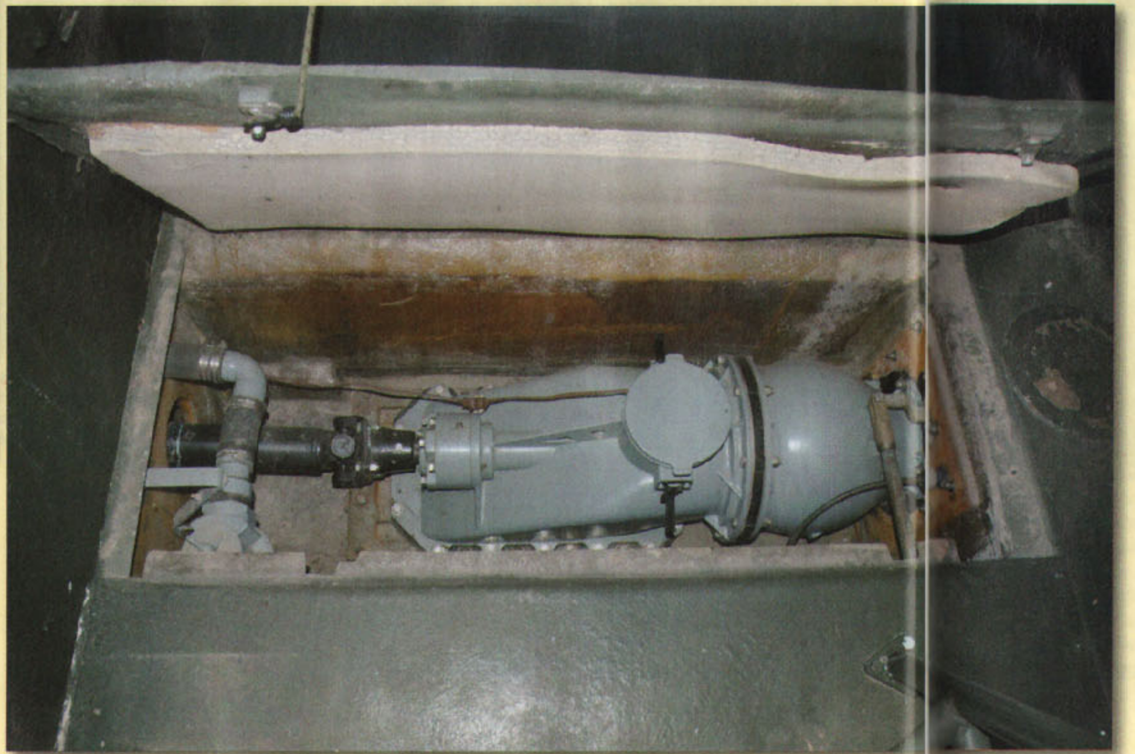


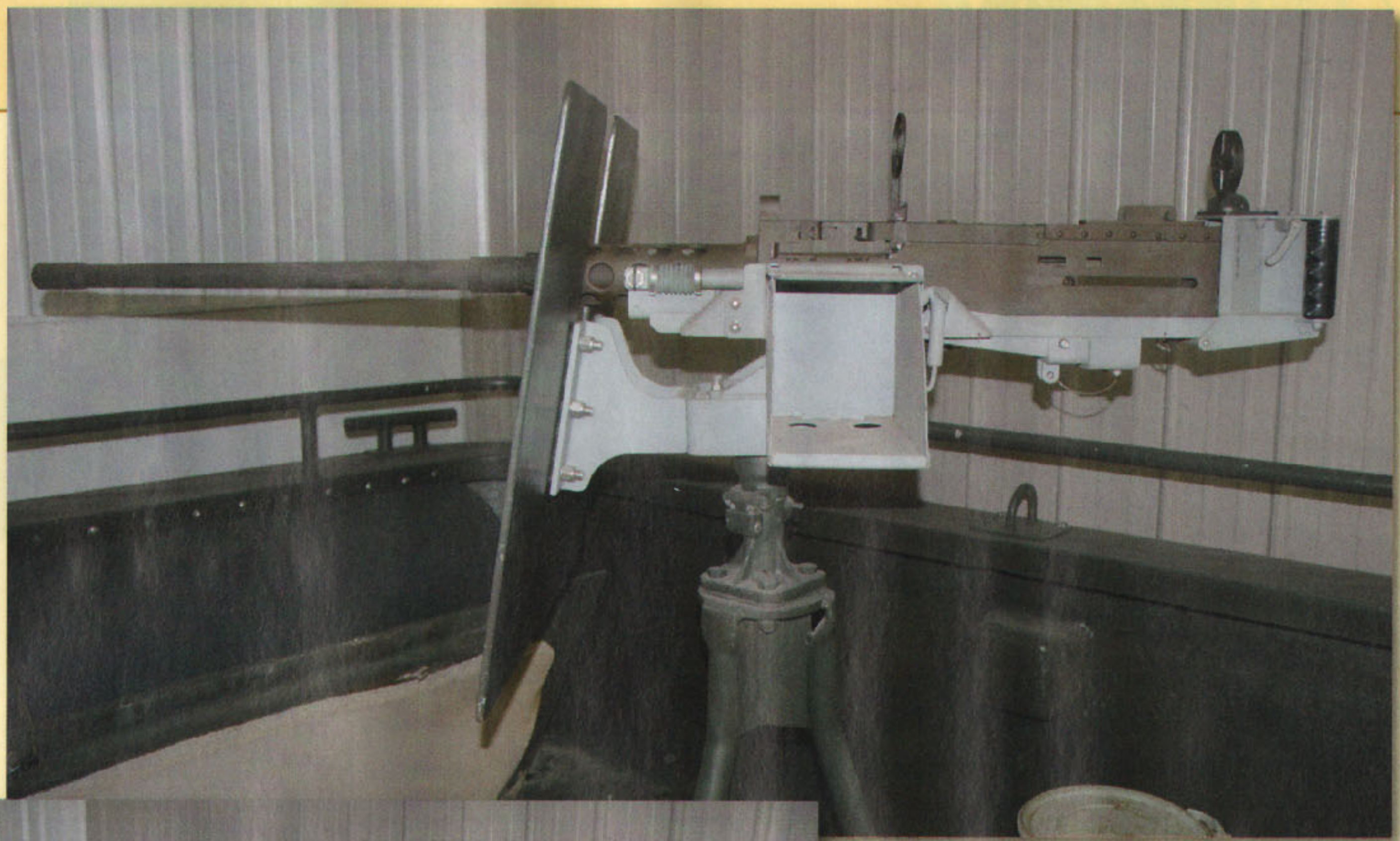
Amidships was a small fighting compartment with very basic armour. On either side of this compartment were weapon's mounts, missing from this example on display at the Battleship Alabama Park, in Mobile, Alabama. Also visible is the vinyl cover over the bridge.



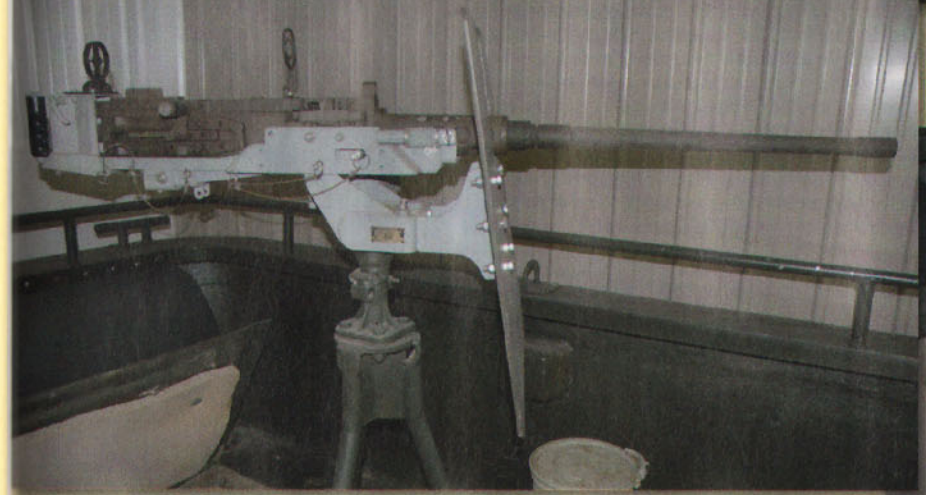
The Ropkey PBR still carries its pintles and sockets. On one side was normally installed a 7.62mm M60 machine gun, while on the other side was a 40mm Mk I8 grenade launcher – which the navy also termed a machine gun. The two weapons could be interchanged from side to side as conditions warranted.

The jet pumps were housed in compartments near the stern of the boat. Each pump had a 9600 gallons per minute discharge capacity, easily propelling the 14,600-pound boat. At speed, the PBR drew only 9 inches, and at rest had a draft of two feet – making it ideal for the shallow waters of the Mekong delta.

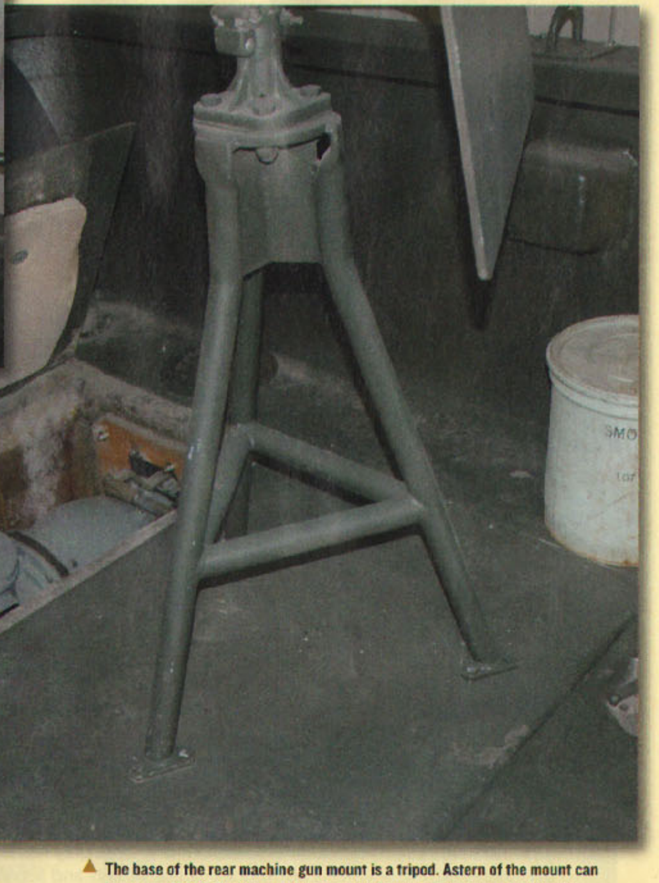




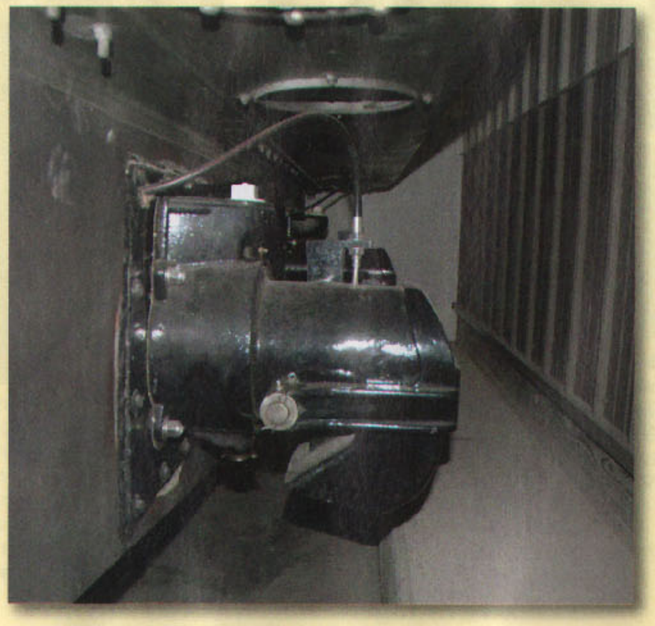
At the stern was a MK 26, Model I7 gun mount, which was normally fitted with a M2 .50 calibre machine gun.



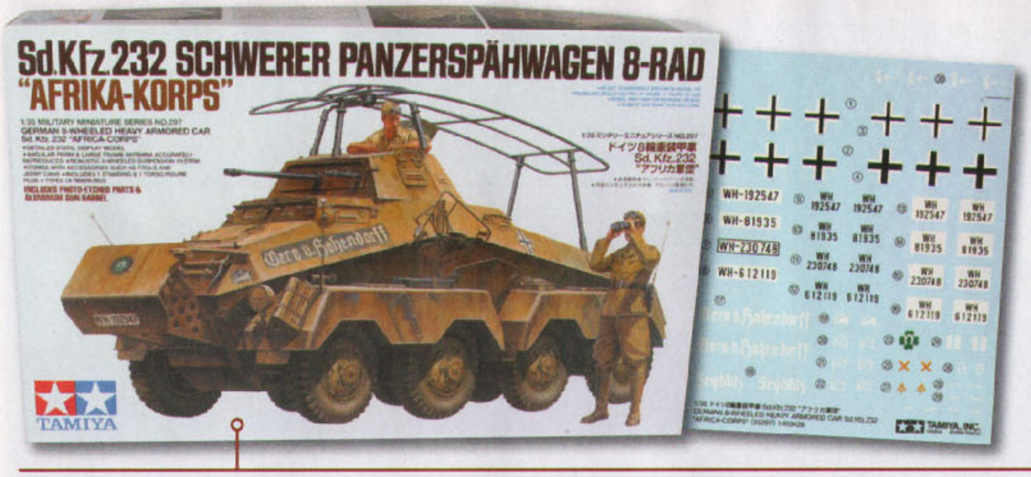
Right hand side view of the potent M2 .50-cal machine gun.

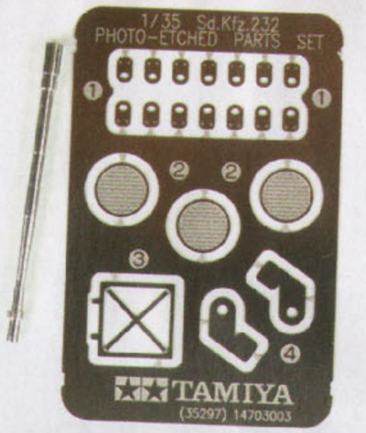


The base of the rear machine gun mount is a tripod. Astern of the mount can be seen a M4A2 floating smokepot, a widely used and extremely effective obscurant used by US Naval and Marine forces from WWII through Vietnam.



Rather than propellers, at the stern of the boat can be seen the two outlets for the Jacuzzi jet pumps. The PBR Mk I had problems with intake following as well as corrosion in the pumps, but these issues were corrected with the model I4YJ pumps in the PBR Mk 2.





TAMIYA

1:35 SD.KFZWAGEN.232 SCHWERER PANZERSPAHWAGEN 8-RAD "AFRIKA – KORPS" KIT NO. 35297

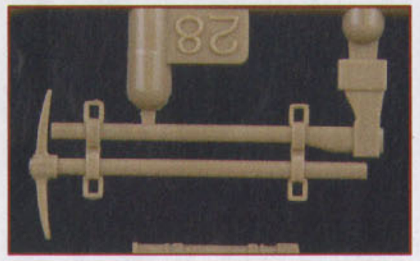
The 'Afrika Korps' labeled 232 is Tamiya's reincarnation of their Schwerer Panzerspahwagen 8-Rad kit which was originally released way back in 1974, but now comes with a couple of nice additions. In the box you will find essentially the old kit with two new sprues, labeled V and W, which carry the updated and better detailed parts. Also included is a small etch metal fret and a aluminium 2cm cannon barrel which if I was to be picky I would say that the barrel was slightly on the long side, a new decal sheet with four marking options is also included. The moulding detail is still good considering the age of the model but it does suffer from a little flash in places and the odd expected pin mark is evident all to be expected on a model of this age but nothing that presents too much of a problem.

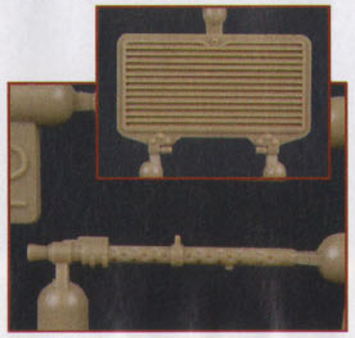
The new Sprues V and W carry the finer parts, which have been redone to include much finer details. The rear deck engine louvers, all the lights, the co-ax MG 34 barrel, all the pioneer tools, stowage boxes, and the jerry cans have all been greatly improved. The later style turret visors and a couple of figures have also been included as options. Oddly the original solid covers for the two large exhaust mufflers remain, these would have been better included on the etch fret as these were made from mesh on the vehicle! Strange that Tamiya went to the trouble of improving so many of the other parts but have overlooked these.

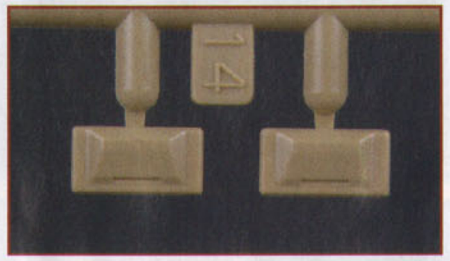
For a model that is around 35 years old it doesn't look too bad, it is lacking some details that we expect from the current generation models, such as weld seams which could be improved but isn't that what modelling is all about? There's even potential for a conversion to the Sd.Kfz. 263 command vehicle as well. The inclusion of the newly tooled parts and the etch fret makes this an attractive kit and as this is the only model of the 232 8-RAD around I would highly recommend this kit to the German armour modelling community.

Available from all good model shops.

7.5/10 - Kev Smith







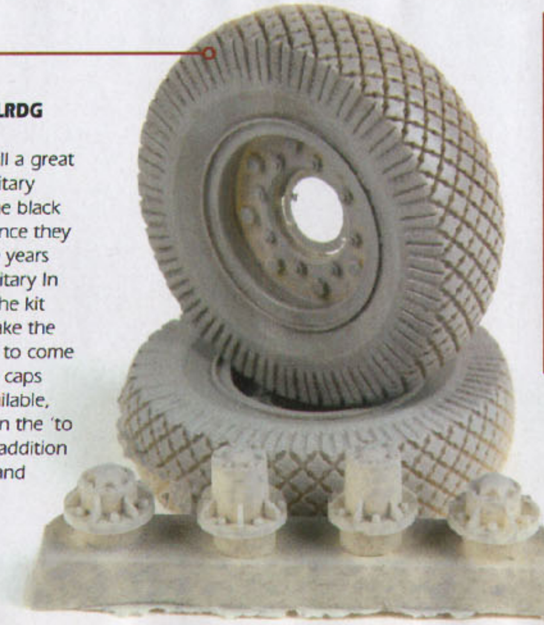
BLITZ ARMOUR ACCESSORIES BY CMK

1:35 DIRECT REPLACEMENT RESIN WHEELS (FOR TAMIYA CHEVROLET LRDG 30CWT KIT) ITEM NO. B35 024

Although the Tamiya LRDG Chevy is not far off collecting its pension, it is still a great kit and one I'm sure that has been built at some point by most if not all-military vehicle modellers. The only real problem with the kit was the inclusion of the black vinyl tyres, which had the annoying tendency to crack and split over time once they were installed on the finished model. This has spoilt many a model over the years and was such a common problem that when I built one for an article in Military In Scale years ago, I went to the effort of casting my own resin wheels using the kit ones as a pattern. By the time I had bought the resin and RTV rubber to make the mould it cost more than the original kit! Blitz are not the only manufacturer to come to our rescue with new wheels but this set of five wheels and separate hub caps offer good value for money, are perfectly cast, easy to install and readily available, either direct or from companies such as LSA Models. If you have an LRDG on the 'to do' list, then a set of these replacement resin wheels would be a very wise addition and will certainly save the heartache of seeing the kit's vinyl tyres cracking and splitting over time. Thoroughly recommended.

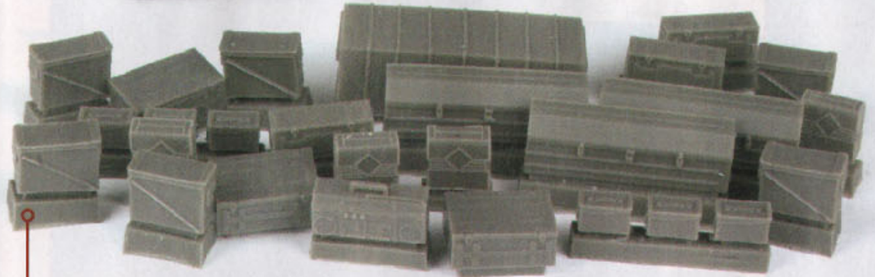
Available from www.cmkkits.com

10/10 - The Editor



AMMUNITION TRANSPORTATIONAL CONTAINERS, MODERN STYLE
plusmodel
125
1/35
MADE IN CZECH REPUBLIC

Opel Blitz 1/72
Resine Conversion
Für Academy Kits
CON7201
Inhalt: Korrektes Dachteil zur frühen Ausführung, Kühlergrill, Bereifung inkl. Reserverad, Zugmaul & Hacken
Urmodell PHiL



PLUS MODEL

1:35 RESIN AMMUNITION TRANSPORTATIONAL CONTAINERS, MODERN STYLE ITEM NO. 125

This useful little set just in from Plus Model offers a handy selection of modern ammo boxes and stowage bins.

22 various ammo boxes, a large wooden crate, three Chieftain tank stowage bins, a large 'boogie box' stereo and a set of white stencil markings on a waterslide decal sheet. All the parts are flawlessly cast in a dark grey resin and feature nice accurate detailing.

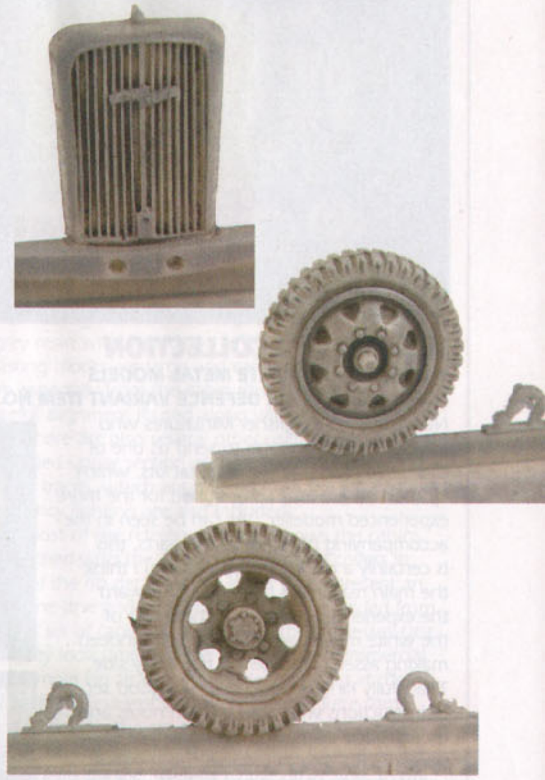
Plus Model have picked a small selection of numerous types in use, including the six H83 pattern boxes most often associated with the .50-cal machine gun. Four of the 7.62mm minigun/40mm Mk.19 Automatic Grenade Launcher boxes are also included, both of these can be seen on Vietnam era vehicles as well as modern NATO ones. Some British pattern boxes are also included along with three Chieftain hull mounted stowage bins, these can often be seen fitted to all sorts of British military vehicles from SAS Land Rovers to Challenger Is, which mounted all sorts of extra stowage containers during the first Gulf War including these Chieftain pattern bins on their turret sides.

Don't forget that ammo boxes used by British forces are virtually always painted in a gloss paint called 'Service Brown' and the stencilling applicable to the contents is in yellow, with only the UN classification stencils in white. Sorry the ammo box spotter in me strikes again!

A useful set that is well worth getting hold of to keep handy for stowing-up that next appropriate Vietnam or modern project to grace your workbench. Highly recommended and the only reason it doesn't score a 10 is the lack of yellow stencils for British pattern boxes.

Distributed in the UK by Creative Models.

9.5/10 - The Editor

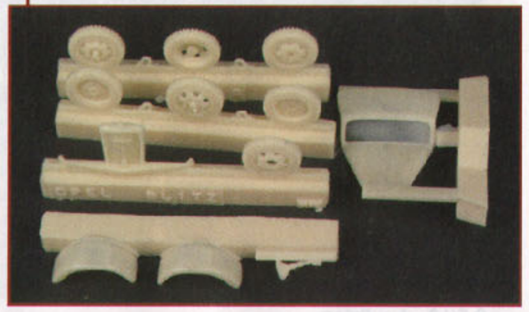


MPK MODELLBAU

1:72 OPEL BLITZ CONVERSION FOR ACADEMY KIT ITEM NO. CON7201

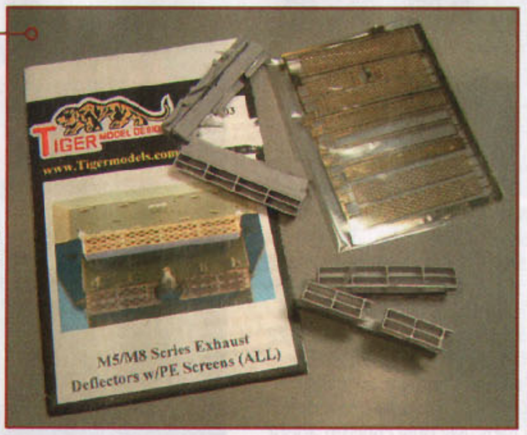
Last month we featured three very nice resin 1:72 British WWII armoured and scout cars and now this month we have a conversion to keep fans of small scale German equipment happy. This 16 piece resin set includes new wheels, rear mudguards, tie-down hooks, towing pintle and a very nice radiator grille complete with bumper and one-piece bonnet and cab roof section. All of the parts are very nicely cast in cream resin. This light cream resin doesn't however show off the detail very well, but once that some of the parts are squirted with an aerosol grey primer and given a colourwash the detail really starts to standout. Unfortunately, not having the Academy kit to hand, I can't see exactly what the differences are over and above the original kit parts and at the time of writing couldn't even get onto the Academy website either. For the quality of the parts I give it 10 out of 10, but can't actually score it as an update set.

10/10 - The Editor



TIGER MODEL DESIGNS

M5/M8 SERIES EXHAUST DEFLECTORS W/PE SCREENS TO FIT ALL M5 AND M8'S ITEM NO. 24403



AFV Club's M5A1 Stuart has been on the market for quite some time. It's a good model, but there's one thing that should be added for an accurate version - exhaust deflectors. These were a standard fitting to most US Army tanks, to prevent the exhaust from kicking out a load of dust.

TMD provides us with a set of exhaust deflectors, for kits from all manufacturers. This means both the ancient Tamiya M5A1 and M8 and the aforementioned AFV Club M5A1.

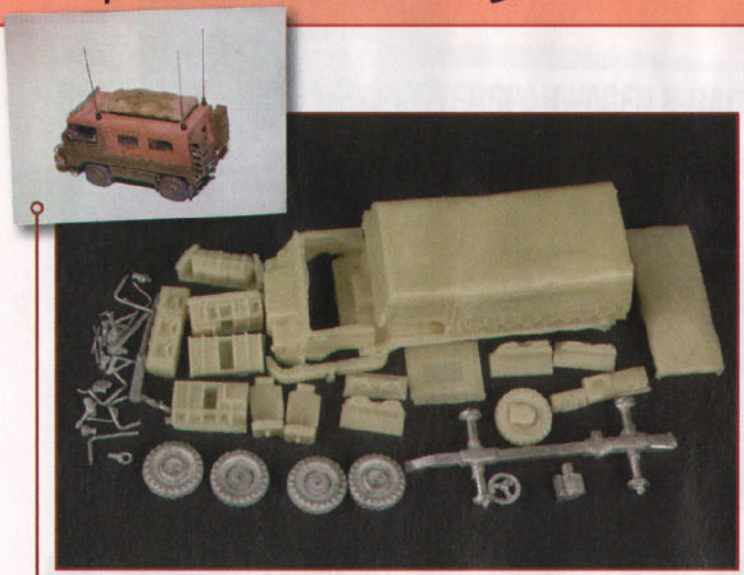
In the set are 12 resin pieces, and a photo etched fret with 10 pieces. Casting is crisp, with some thin flash to be removed. The slats on the deflector are thinly moulded. We get two lower exhaust deflectors, one upper deflector and the associated exhaust pipes, hinged brackets and screening. Instructions are fair, but I feel some more info could have been provided regarding the type of deflector. You get the choice between an early and later lower deflector. The former is a one piece affair, where the latter is a two piece version, allowing a towing pintle to be mounted.

The PE is good, but a bit thick. Besides the screening needed for the deflectors, you also get screening for the engine deck grilles, a nice touch!

Recommended for updating your M5A1 or M8.

Available from www.tigermodels.com and in the UK from www.armour-models.co.uk and Historex Agents.

8/10 - Martin Dogger



MODERN AFV COLLECTION

1:76 RESIN AND WHITE METAL MODELS
PINZGAUER 4X4 AIR DEFENCE VARIANT ITEM NO. MAC-116

New to us are Kingfisher Miniatures who have been kind enough to send us one of their 1:76 resin and white metal kits, which by their own words "is designed for the more experienced modeller". As can be seen in the accompanying photo of all the parts, this is certainly a comprehensive kit and I think the main reason it's been geared toward the experienced modeller is that most of the white metal parts are very small indeed making assembly rather on the fiddly side. Thankfully Kingfisher do supply a good set of instructions with both written notes and an exploded diagram showing where all the parts go. It's nice to see that this modern vehicle has been recreated in 1:76 and I'm sure will be a welcome addition to collectors in this diminutive scale.

Available from Kingfisher Miniatures.
Unit 5, Town Place Farm, Sloop Lane, Scaynes Hill, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. RH17 7NP
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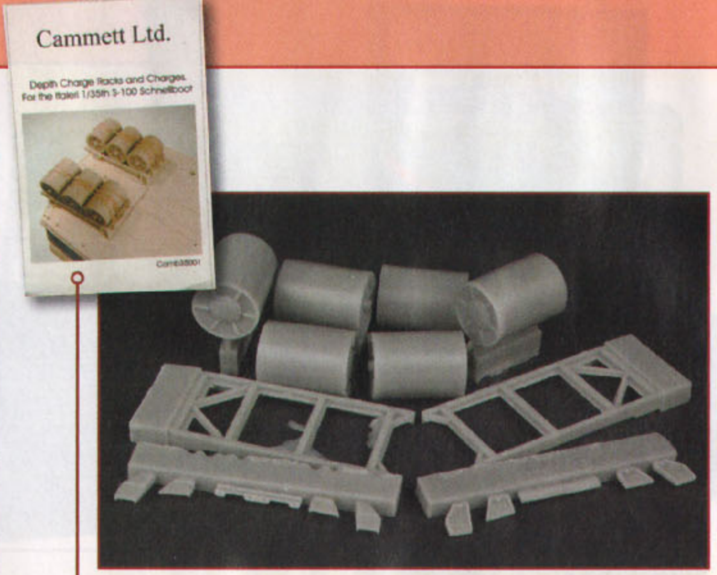
email: kingfishermins@btinternet.com

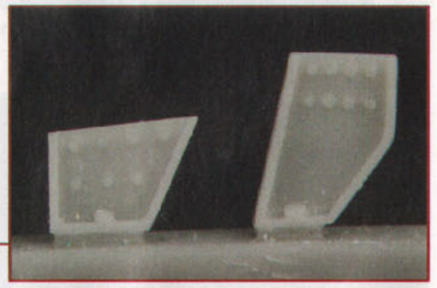
8.5/10 - The Editor


Cammett Ltd.
Depth Charge Racks and Charges
For the Italeri 1/35th S-100 Schnellboot

CAMMETT

1:35 RESIN DEPTH CHARGES ITEM NO. CAMB35001

Cammett have been quick off the mark in producing the first of what is expected to be a series of update and conversion sets for Italeri's 1:35 S-100 series Schnellboot. This set of six resin depth charges, racks and tie-down ropes is designed to replace the longer (empty) mine-racks that are supplied in the kit. These shorter style racks are clearly visible in some of the photos in the excellent 'Schnellboot In Action' book by Squadron-Signal. These racks could be fitted or removed depending on the mission the boats were tasked with. Cammett have done an excellent job of producing these and thankfully also include a very good set of captioned photograph type instructions to help with their assembly and fitting. I have been sent an early sample, which includes some short lengths of metal tubing and thin string to make-up the tie-down ropes used to retain the mines in the racks, however talking to Robin from Cammett, they are in the process of looking for an even easier method of producing these complex looking lashings.



Thoroughly recommended and these are definitely going to be added to my S-Boat project.

Available from http://cammett.websds.net

10/10 - The Editor

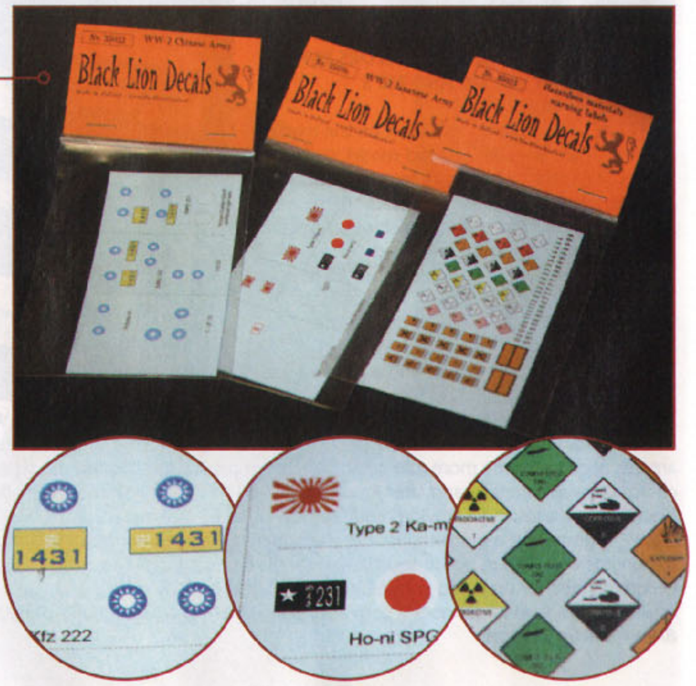
BLACK LION DECALS

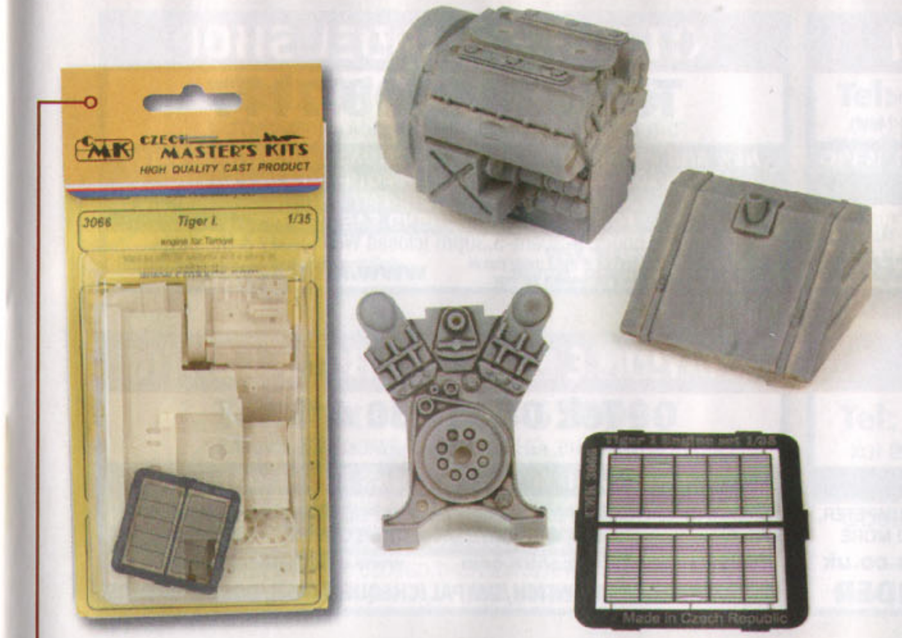
WATERSLIDE DECALS VARIOUS SCALES
WW2 JAPANESE ARMY SET NO. 35016
WW2 CHINESE ARMY SET NO. 35022
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS WARNING LABELS SET NO. 35023

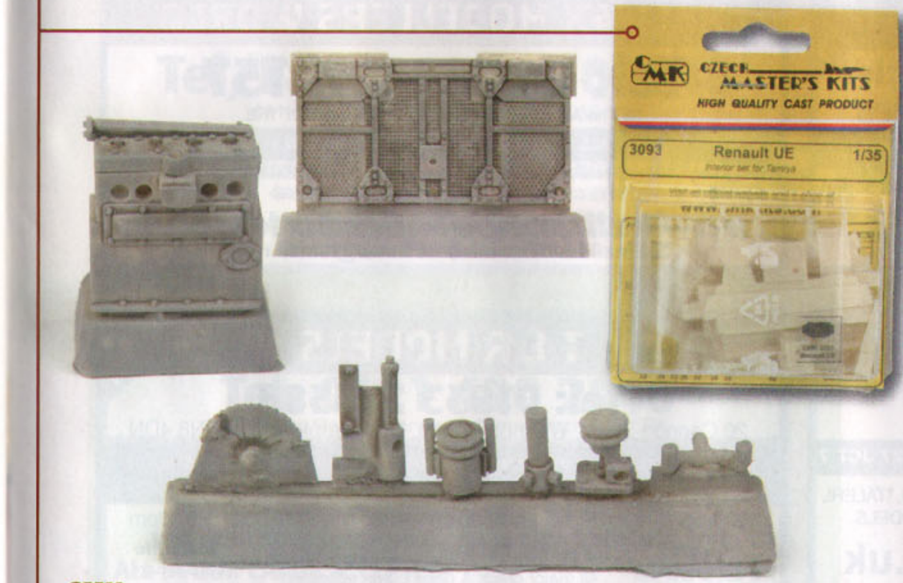
Black Lion Decals are a small producer of decals from the Netherlands. They specialise in the 'hard to find' or obscure subjects, in both 1:35 and 1:72. Recently released items are set No. 35016 'WW2 Japanese Army', which provides decals for five different vehicles, including the Ho-ni SPG and type 94 tankette. Another, more obscure, set is No. 35022 'WW2 Chinese Army' this holds decals for six vehicles of the Chinese Army, including the T-26, Sd.Kfz 222, Sd.Kfz 221 and Panzer I. These decals are again full colour, and very nicely printed on thin carrier film. Register is also very good, especially important on the Chinese sun markings and the Japanese rising sun flags. My only criticism about these decal sets is the lack of a painting and marking guide, so you need to have your references sorted if you want to venture into these subjects. The manufacturer will however provide you with a marking guide in PDF form, downloadable from the company's web site in due time. Finally, my personal favourite, we have set No. 35023 Hazardous Materials Warning Labels, this set provides you with the necessary labels to stick on all sorts of barrels and boxes in modern diorama settings. A set like this always comes in handy, and was very hard to find before this useful set appeared. The decals are again in full colour and in perfect register. Highly recommended.

Available from www.blackliondecals.nl

9.5/10 - Jan Peters







CMK

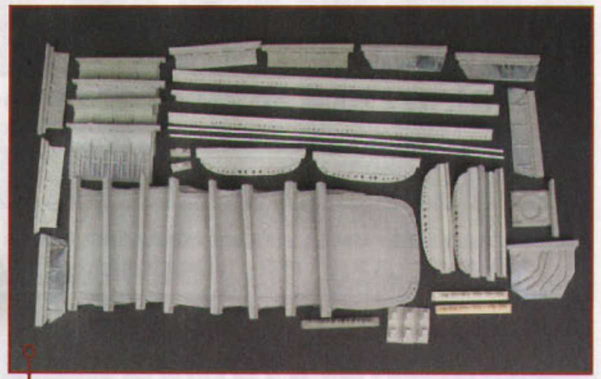
RESIN AND ETCHED METAL DETAIL AND CONVERSION SETS
TIGER I ENGINE FOR TAMIYA KIT ITEM NO. 3066
RENAULT UE INTERIOR FOR TAMIYA KIT

CMK have certainly been busy of late, producing top quality conversions and detail sets and these latest two are both designed to add interiors to two very different armour models produced by Tamiya. The first is a very comprehensive, generally interior set for the diminutive Renault UE, which comprises of a beautifully detailed engine assembly and gearbox, bulkhead and over 40 other resin parts some of which are very tiny and will require very careful removal from the casting blocks. To complete the set a small pre-printed acetate sheet is included for the driver's instrument panel and a small set of instructions featuring exploded views of the interior to aid assembly. On studying these instructions I do think they are a bit on the 'busy' side and may prove difficult for modellers new to this type of medium. The second set consists of an engine and compartment to fill the back of Tamiya's Tiger I, this to me is a bit of an odd choice to release an engine compartment for the Tamiya kit, which has been around for quite a long time now and I personally think CMK would have been better spending their time doing sets for the newer and better detailed kits from Dragon or AFV Club? That aside what you get is all beautifully produced and will really make for a superbly detailed model. Thankfully the instructions are broken down into small easy to follow stages, which highlight clearly the modifications needed to be completed to the Tamiya hull before fitting the resin parts.

Both sets have been expertly produced with faultless casting and amazing detail, and although they are not best suited for the novice they are still highly recommended for the more experienced modeller.

Available from www.cmkkits.com

9.5/10 - The Editor



COBRA COMPANY

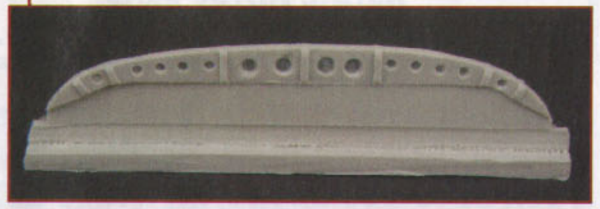
1:35 SCALE CH-47 INTERIOR STRUCTURE DETAIL SET
CC35022

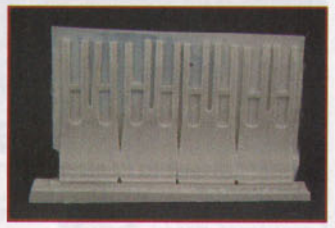
This second set attempts to cover the rest of the rear cabin detail which is missing from the kit. As previously the parts are cast in grey resin with little or no air bubbles evident. Again the casting blocks are large and care will be needed to remove them especially from the cabin ribs. These internal ribs will need careful alignment if used along with a full seating configuration. There are also several other useful parts, such as a better detailed upper section of the crew entry door and associated roller tracks, which are missing from the kit, first aid kits and emergency lighting are also included.

Unfortunately most of the reference I have, shows the cabins of the Chinook lined with the quilted sound proof covers in place, so most of the rib detail will be lost if you represent an in service machine (the padding would have to be added from scratch). The full set of cabin seats has all of the harnesses cast and in reality they look similar to the type used in commercial airlines with a simple lap strap with buckles. Looking at the multitude of parts it is evident that there will be quite some work involved in getting the set in place. My biggest concern are the ribs and the way in which they have to be split at the top and then aligned on the fuselage to the other side, to my eye they also look a bit too wide!. Aside from my concerns this is another one of those sets that will add greatly to a finished CH-47 in this large scale and anyone wishing to build this beast would do well to get hold of these two detail sets, although they are only a partial fill and the modeller will need to add plenty of wiring and pipework to complete the exposed detail around the rear pylon walls.

Available from www.cobracompany.com

7.5/10 - John Wilkes





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Next Issue

On sale April 2nd 2009

STALKING GIANT

Brett Green couldn't wait to gets his hands on Tamiya's all new Jagdtiger, but what did he think of it?

PROPAGANDA PRIZE

Just as Matt Edwards finishes his Panther/Panzer IV Hybrid conversion, Dragon announce it as a kit! Isn't that always the way?

THE DEFEATED FOXES

Noel Petroni details Italeri's Crusader Mk. I with the help of Royal Model and Fruilmodel.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

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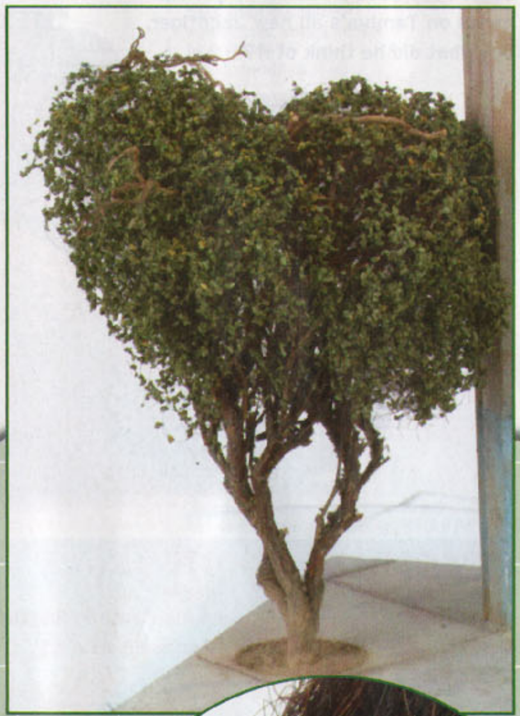
The Last Post... Techniques

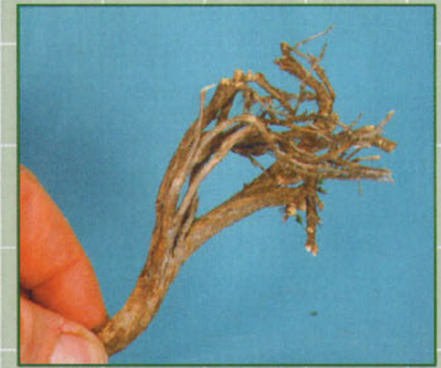
SIMPLE SHRUBS

Due to space limitations we thought it best to show how **Pete Usher** created the trees for his 'Going to confession' on page 32 as our Last Post Technique guide this month.

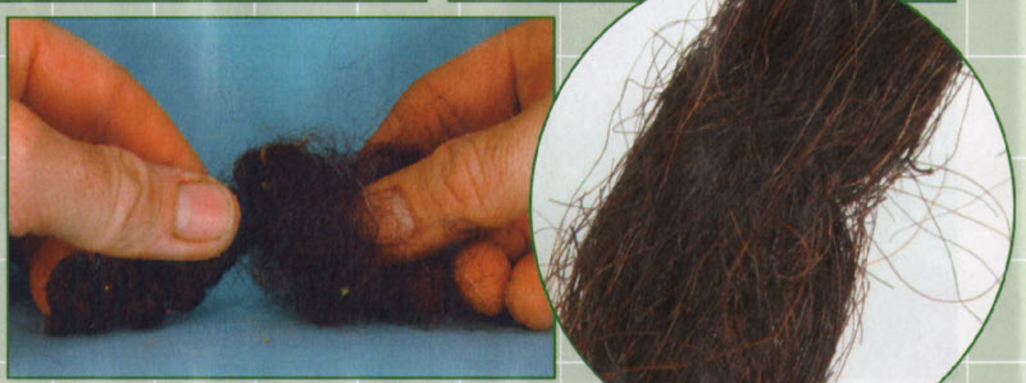
The products used are all from Treemendus; these are the very same ones we featured in last month's Incoming section.

TREEMENDUS

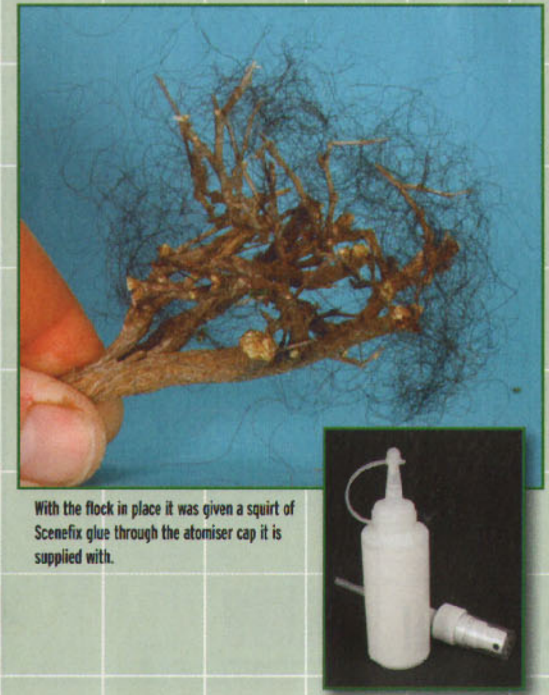




For the tree trunk I used a small dead shrub I found blowing around on the beach, which I trimmed to a tree shape. As a general rule, certain roots make better scale tree trunks than twigs do, because their bark offers a better scale appearance.

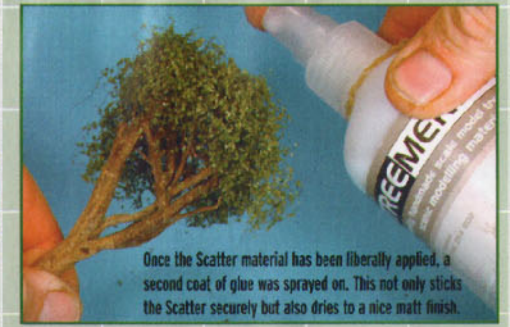


The basic canopy of the tree was formed using some of the Tree Flock, this is a woolly material that can be teased out and hooked over the outer branches of the tree.

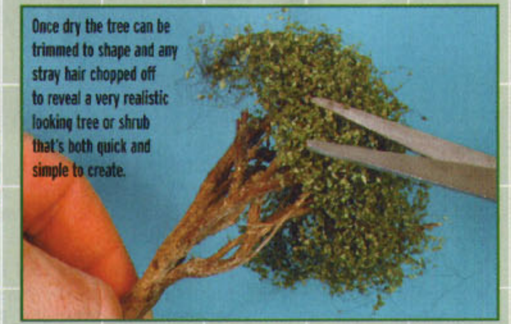


With the flock in place it was given a squirt of Scenefix glue through the atomiser cap it is supplied with.

Treemendus Scatter can now be sprinkled over the tree (do this over some paper or in a box so the lost Scatter can be reused).



Once the Scatter material has been liberally applied, a second coat of glue was sprayed on. This not only sticks the Scatter securely but also dries to a nice matt finish.



Once dry the tree can be trimmed to shape and any stray hair chopped off to reveal a very realistic looking tree or shrub that's both quick and simple to create.

Thanks to Ade at Treemendus for supplying the products for this guide. For the full range of Treemendus products, please go to www.treemendusmodels.co.uk

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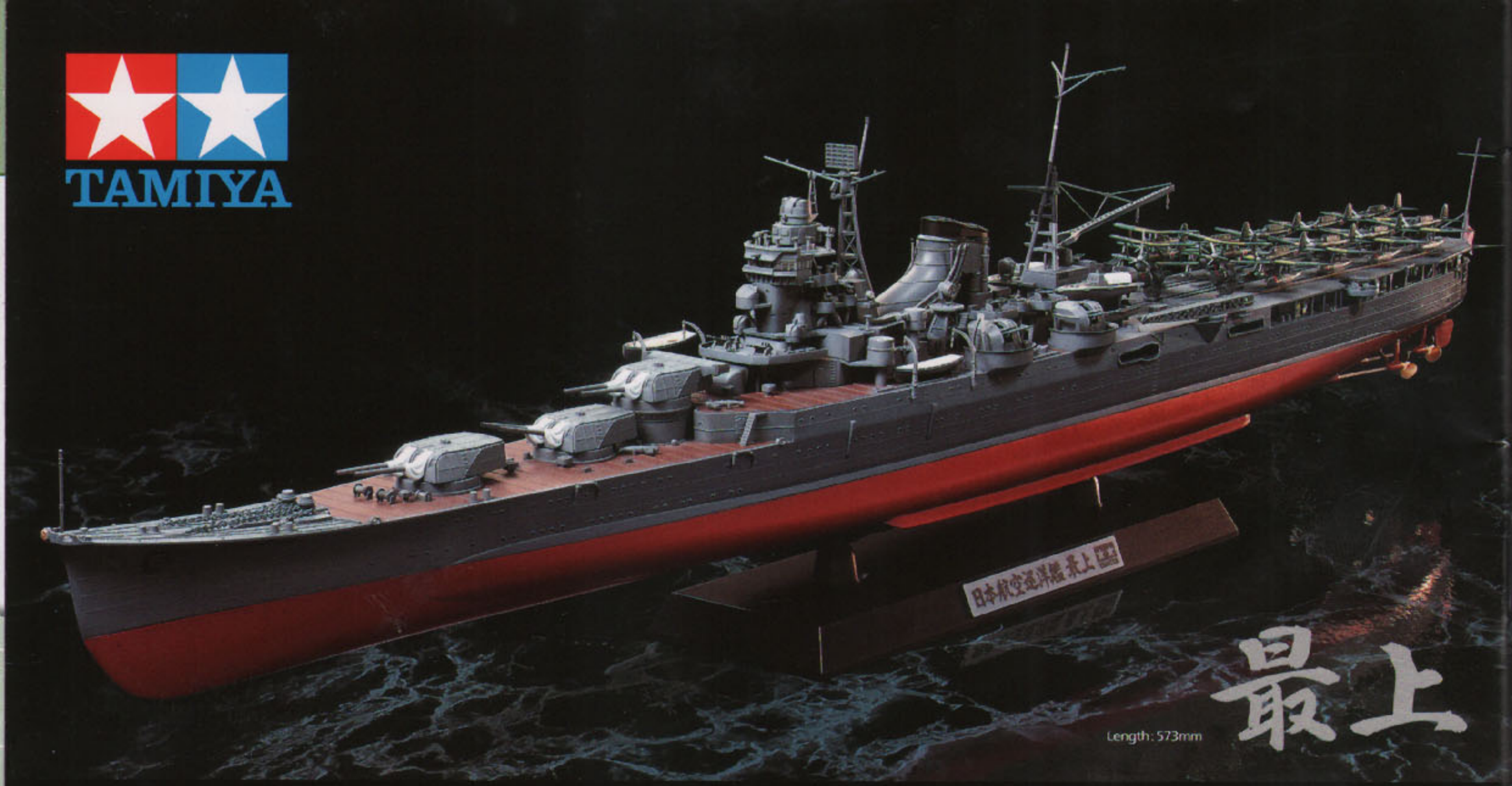
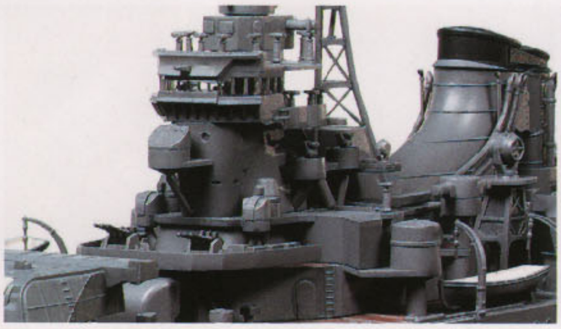


The Highest Hybrid

1/350 Japanese Aircraft Carrying Cruiser Mogami Item 78021

The Mogami was completed as the lead ship of her namesake class of large light cruisers in 1935 and was originally armed with five triple 15.5cm gun turrets. After Japan's withdrawal from the London Naval Treaty, she was refitted with twin 20.3cm turrets for reclassification as a heavy cruiser, and later in WWII, she was converted into an aircraft carrying cruiser with a complement of up to 11 floatplanes. It is in this distinctive form that the Mogami becomes the first cruiser model to join Tamiya's 1/350 Scale Ship Series. Every feature of the ship after its conversion in 1943 has been reproduced based on the most accurate references. The hull consists of left and right sections as well as a one-piece lower section, while screws are incorporated for easy deck attachment. Areas such as the superstructure, funnel, main and secondary armament turrets, as well as anti-aircraft gun mounts are all highly detailed. While the actual Mogami did not carry a full air complement in action, this model comes with parts for three Mitsubishi F1M and eight Aichi E13A to allow modelers to depict the ship with all 11 aircraft. Stands are also included to allow depiction of the floatplanes in flight for extra display possibilities. From the Battle of the Philippine Sea to the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the Mogami served as the eyes for the Japanese Navy. Pick up this amazing model kit to experience for yourself the design features of this unique warship.


Unique features of the Mogami-class such as the compact bridge and single funnel are accurately reproduced. Clear parts for windows and searchlight lenses enhance realism.

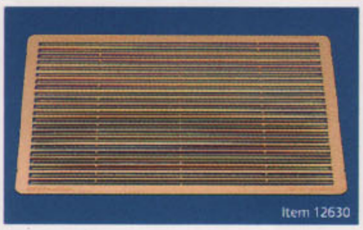
Masts are made from durable ABS material while details such as the crane, catapults, and aircraft propellers are depicted with photo-etched parts.

Images show a completed model kit with separately available 1/350 Scale Crew Set (Item 12622).

Hull and flight deck surface details are sharply rendered, as is the full complement of 11 floatplanes.

Kit includes photo-etched parts for crane, trolleys, and aircraft propellers as well as metal anchor chains and propeller shafts.

《Full Hull Model》
《Waterline Model》
Kit may be assembled as either a waterline model for dioramas or a full hull standalone display model.



1/350 Scale Degaussing Cable Set
Add this set to the Mogami or other WWII Japanese warship models for the ultimate detailed finish.

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